

# Many Welsh votes are barred in miners' poll after suspected rigging

Miners have voted by 61.5 per cent against 39.5 per cent to the National Coal Board's continuity scheme, which would have given face workers up to a week more, it was learnt yesterday. Votes from about a dozen pits in South Wales have been disqualified. There are certain to be charges of politically motivated "ballot-rigging" against the left, our Labour Editor writes. These could have far-reaching effects within the miners' leadership.

## 3-2 against board's scheme

Routledge, Editor, has voted by two to reject the Coal Board's production scheme, but first parties' secret pithead check have come to light to make a furious political row over the validity of the entire votes of a sub-number of pits have been ruled from the ballot by the independent Reform Society. In the disqualification, the votes would not have been counted to swing the result. The miners' rejection of the board's package is strong for that. But it is certain to be charged against the left when the outcome of the poll is announced. The suspect votes have been discounted, the vote accepting the Coal Board's scheme was 77,119 to 47,119 in favour of implementing the deal, which would give face workers up to a week increase. The poll generally lower than the ballot held last year by 61.5 per cent to reject. One big coalfield, Nottingham, went in favour of the deal, but the only Yorkshire pitmen topped in a cent vote for rejection. A study of the votes cast by some 52,000 voters to accept 200,000. Not all that explained by the lower in its report to the



Mr Karamanlis waves to supporters after casting his vote in Athens yesterday.

# Karamanlis landslide in election

From Mario Modiano Athens, Nov 17. New Democracy, the party of Mr Constantine Karamanlis, the Prime Minister, appeared to be headed for a landslide victory in the Greek general elections, the first after seven years of military rule. The first official returns gave his conservative party 58.3 per cent of votes in 330 of the 12,518 polling stations throughout the country with 41,907 votes out of 71,000. The Centre Union/New Forces was second with 14,395 votes; the Panhellenic Socialist Party

polled 8,751 votes, and the Communists gained 4,546 votes. The extreme right wing party National Democratic Union (NEDU), which protects the friends of the fallen dictatorship, received a mere 1.4 per cent. More than an election, this was a day of rejoicing for the Greeks. So much so that it almost became irrelevant which party would actually win. It was, no doubt, the quietest, the calmest, and the fairest election ever held in this country. Thousands of Athenians, after voting, went to the Polytechnic as if to say "thank you". It was the Polytechnic revolt—smothered in blood by the Army and the police—exactly one year ago today, that burst open the way to democracy. The pilgrims tied bouquets of flowers on the railings of the

# Physicists excited over new particle

Stanford, California, Nov 17.—American physicists yesterday announced the discovery of a new kind of elementary particle—a basic constituent of all matter—with hitherto unknown properties. The discovery was made independently by scientific teams at Stanford University's linear accelerator centre and the Brookhaven National Laboratory in New York. In an announcement made simultaneously by both laboratories, Mr Burton Richter, of the Stanford team, and Mr Samuel C. Ting, of the Brookhaven team, said: "The suddenness of the discovery, coupled with the totally unexpected properties of the particle are what make it so exciting. It is not like what we have seen before." The researchers said that they did not yet fully understand the discovery but it might fill some spaces in the physical knowledge of the universe. "The discovery is abstract. We do not know what it means," they said. Theorists were "working frantically" to fit the discovery into the framework of present knowledge. Elementary particles, so small that they cannot be seen under a microscope, make up all matter and energy. It has long been known that atoms are composed of three fundamental, or elementary, particles—the protons, neutrons and the electrons circling them somewhat like the planets orbiting the sun. The new particle, which has been given the name Psi, is said to have hitherto unknown properties. According to Mr Richter, the Psi particle is "different from all the other particles we know. It lives 100,000 times longer than any other particle, and therefore must have a new kind of structure of holding it together." One physicist said the existence of the particle may eventually explain many discrepancies in fundamental physical theories. Another scientist said: "This is one of the biggest discoveries in high energy physics in years anywhere in the world." Both the Stanford and Brookhaven groups said the new particle occurred at an energy of just over three billion electron volts. They said the particle decays into other heavy particles, called hadrons or leptons, in one hundred billionths of a billionth of a second. On a nuclear time scale this is a remarkably long life. Both laboratories made their discoveries while conducting research for the United States Atomic Energy Commission. —AP and UP.

# Cabinet in strategy talks at Chequers

By Michael Hatfield Political Staff Cabinet ministers spent more than six hours at Chequers yesterday discussing long-term strategy, particularly the economic difficulties facing the country. They discussed inflation, unemployment and investment, they also made assessments of the likely impact of Mr Healey's recent Budget statement and the one he is expected to make in the spring. The ministers also discussed what was described as "Britain and the external world". That, apparently, included Europe. It was stated yesterday that there was no concentration on the European Community and the results so far of the negotiations being conducted by Mr Callaghan, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, and his colleagues. The Central Policy Review

# Strong protest vote in Brazilian poll

Rio de Janeiro, Nov 17.—Brazilians appeared today to have recorded a strong protest vote as the only opposition party allowed by the military regime continued to make a strong showing in the counting of votes at the congressional elections held on Friday. By noon today, with only about a quarter of the 23 million votes counted, the opposition Brazilian Democratic Movement (MDB) was leading, sometimes by huge majorities, in 18 of 22 states. Final results were expected on Wednesday. Congress has virtually no powers under a strong executive, and the results are in no way a threat to the military regime, which assumed power 10 years ago. But observers saw the elections as a clear warning to the Government of widespread discontent over the rampant inflation. In the State, where only a third of the 56 seats were

# Tax plans 'threat to countryside'

The wealth and capital transfer taxes would have appalling effects on the countryside, Lord Montagu of Beaulieu said at the annual dinner for tenants and guests on his New Forest estate at Beaulieu, Hampshire, at the weekend. "It is depressing to think that this is perhaps the beginning of the end of a great era in this country," he said. "It might mean in the years to come no private woodlands, no tenanted farms, no large houses and no large estates."

# Peart seeks EC help food supplies

Mr. Minister of Agriculture, sets out his most difficult EEC mission so far. He is trying to persuade the other Community members to take action to safeguard supplies of sugar, butter and other commodities. Brussels will be to agree on what terms to offer sugar countries of the developing world for ports of 1,400,000 tons of cane sugar

# Banker's Kuwait visit

The weekend visit to Kuwait by Mr Gordon Richardson, Governor of the Bank of England, was not the result of Mr Healey's decision to allow the present sterling guarantee arrangements to lapse at the end of the year, a Bank spokesman said yesterday. The trip had been arranged weeks ago.

# Independence rejected

Racial divisions in South Africa deepened when leaders of eight African homelands decided to reject at this stage the Government's concept of independent Bantustans and Mr Vorster, the Prime Minister, ruled out one man, one vote representation in a single parliament.

# Irish presidency

Irish leaders in the Irish Republic are expected to meet this week to agree on a candidate for the presidency to succeed Mr Childers, who died early yesterday.

# Pledge to the hungry

The world food conference ended in Rome with the nations pledged to ensure that "within a decade no child will fail to go to bed hungry, that no family will fear for its next day's bread"

# Teachers' progress

Teachers' progress: Powerful private residents' group told that new Act greatly strengthens their rights in struggle with landlords

# Doing out: Egon Ronay's new Dunlop Guide

published today, lists the highs and lows of British cuisine

# Petrol price rise: Owners of garage breakdown trucks threaten to converge on Parliament unless the Government concedes higher profit margins

Rome: The Pope says ransom money will become damned in the hands of Italy's kidnappers

# Paris: Army begins to clear piles of rubbish from the streets of the strike-bound French capital

Washington: Mr Ford withdraws the name of a former Nixon supporter he had nominated as Ambassador to Spain

# Money supply: Bank of England figures show a 7 per cent average growth over the past three months, which is seen as moderate

Oman: Top-page Special Report on progress from despotic rule to welfare state.

# Mr Ford leaves for Far East

From Patrick Brogan Washington, Nov 17. President Ford set off to the Far East this morning, saying that he would rather travel a thousand miles for peace than take a single step for war. The Soviet Ambassador gave him a big brown fur hat to keep him warm at Vladivostok and a group of Scouts cheered him loudly in the rain. This is Mr Ford's first trip abroad since he became President, apart from a brief excursion across the Mexico border. Before climbing into his helicopter on the White House lawn, he said his trip was "in the highest national interest of the United States" because "we live in a world whose problems are inter-related. Tokyo go alert, page 8; leading article, page 15.

# Threat of a new Middle East war recedes

From Paul Martin Beirut, Nov 17. The threat of an imminent Middle East war receded today after the most tense 48 hours of military brinkmanship since the October 1973 war. However, the armies of Israel and Syria remained on alert along the Golan Heights front, the focal point of renewed tension in the area. Syria accused Israel of manufacturing the latest "war scare" as a means of preparing public opinion for a pre-emptive attack against the Arabs. In a broadcast over Damascus radio, a government spokesman said that Syria was prepared and capable of defending itself. The weekend crisis, which was defused only through intensive superpower diplomacy, posed the most serious threat so far to the delicate peace in the Middle East. In addition to a full-scale conflict between Israel and Syria, it threatened a reversal of the peacemaking process on the Sinai front. Clearly, the crisis had more to do than Israel's claim of a massive Soviet arms buildup in Syria. The Syrians, dissatisfied with the lack of progress in an Israel withdrawal in Golan, have been engaged in their own silent brinkmanship, withholding their decision on the United Nations peacekeeping force along the disengagement line. They must make their decision on the future role of the force within two weeks. Israel has made it clear that it would regard a Syrian decision to oust the United Nations force as a hostile act. This is taken to mean that it would in fact look upon it as a *casus belli*. The force is the only thing separating the two armies along the 30-mile front on the Golan Heights. Ever since the October war in

# Rolls-Royce 'hardly', MP says

criticized the Government yesterday for its terms its cowardly attitude on Rolls-Royce in an invidious position. If his fellow workers on strike in Scotland. Mr. Rost, Conservative MP for Derbyshire, said he would table questions in the House of Commons today to the Government. Mr. Foot, Secretary of State for the Home Office, said the strike had paralysed the firm's spare-parts factories.

# Gamma over diaries

Mr. Crossman's placing Mr. Foot, Secretary of State for the Home Office, in an invidious position. If his fellow workers on strike in Scotland. Mr. Rost, Conservative MP for Derbyshire, said he would table questions in the House of Commons today to the Government. Mr. Foot, Secretary of State for the Home Office, said the strike had paralysed the firm's spare-parts factories.

# Steel price plea

of a record first-half profit of £82m, British Steel Corporation will tell the next year's shareholders. The price of steel will rise to 25 per cent it will go up to 25 per cent it will be needed for the corporation expects declining prices for steel still has to maintain its 10-year development programme.

# The Arts, page 12

John Percival on *The Calm at Sadler's Wells*; Philip Norman on *The Three Degrees*; London correspondent Michael Ratcliffe and Leonard Buckley on last night's television.

# Features, pages 11 and 14

Twenty years after the Algerian revolution, Charles Barrow looks at the promise and the danger of President Boumediene's youthful state.

# Business News, pages 19-24

Financial Editor following the Budget; demand becomes the worry among engineering companies.

# Two detectives suspended

Two Scotland Yard detectives have been suspended from duty on full pay pending an investigation into allegations that they denuded £1,500 from a man on a criminal charge, it was disclosed yesterday.

# IRA threat to intensify bomb campaign in Britain

The Provisional IRA will increase its violence campaign in Britain, David O'Connell, the self-styled chief of staff, said in a television interview yesterday. He declared on commercial television's *Weekend World* that the only condition for a cessation would be a statement of the British Government's intention to withdraw its troops from Northern Ireland. "The British Government and the British people must realize that because of the terror waged by the troops in Ireland they must suffer the consequences," he said. He said that military, judicial and other targets were liable to attack. "The responsibility rests fairly and squarely with the British Government. The situation could be changed overnight if they said: 'We are out going to stay in Northern Ireland.'" The British Government held the key to peace or war. "The timetable for the troops' withdrawal was negotiable. What was not negotiable was the principle of a declaration of intent. If the British Government made its declaration there would be a new situation. Mr O'Connell's terms for peace were: a simple statement of fact that the British Government intended to disengage its release of all political prisoners in England, Ireland and Scotland; and the setting up of an all-Ireland convention. Mr O'Connell indicated that the deaths of civilians in the M62 coach explosion were an accident. "It was a military coach and all our intelligence indicated there would be no civilians aboard," he said. He blamed civilian deaths on other bombings on the fact that the British police had made public the code they had devised to give warnings of impending explosions. Other Irish news, page 2

# Toxic gas in ship 'was not listed'

By Stewart Teodler A government investigation is to be held into how a dangerous chemical gas in the cargo of a British ship lying off the Cornish coast leaked and why it was not on a list of dangerous substances in the ship or on the manifest. Four crew members were flown ashore by helicopter from the Asia Freighter on Friday. Yesterday another 10, including the master, were taken to hospital for tests. The absence of the chemical, arsine, from the list, created a delay in discovering the probable cause of the illness. Not until yesterday afternoon was it disclosed in a check through the vessel's documents in Rotterdam. Arsine was tested as a chemical weapon in the last war. It is used with hydrogen for injecting arsenic into semi-conductors for transistors. When breathed, it can affect the transfer of oxygen and carbon dioxide in the blood. The four men flown ashore are at King's College Hospital, London. Yesterday, the hospital said: "All the men are very ill but they are responding to treatment." They are Chief Officer R. MacKenzie, from Russ and Cromarty; Navigator Cadet A. MacGregor, from Glasgow; Seaman A. Smith, from Stornoway; and Seaman D. Galbraith, from Barra. Yesterday, the Asia Freighter, owned by a subsidiary of Denholm Ship Management Ltd, lay a mile off Falmouth as scientists from the Ministry of Defence Chemical Research Establishment at Nanacoke, Cornwall, worked through the ship to discover which parts were safe and which were infected.

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HOME NEWS

Government attacked for condemning Rolls-Royce pay rise

The Government's "cowardly, dishonest and despicable attack" on Rolls-Royce over its 53-a-week payment to 6,000 Scottish workers, announced on Friday, was condemned yesterday by Mr Peter Rost, MP. He said he was submitting a private notice of motion in the House of Commons today over what he described as the Government's hypocritical behaviour, and was also tabling detailed questions to Mr Foot, Secretary of State for Employment.

NUJ chief denies censorship charge

By a Staff Reporter Mr Kenneth Morgan, general secretary of the National Union of Journalists, said last night in London that the union was concerned at "continued misrepresentation" of its position over its dispute with the Newspaper Society, the organization of provincial and suburban employers.

Tenants' group told of progress in struggle

By a Staff Reporter An important engagement in the struggle between landlords and tenants took place on Saturday. The Conference of Private Residents Associations, (COPRA), the alliance of residents' and tenants' associations in the private sector that has coalesced into a large and formidable organization in the past three years, held a conference in London.

DEATHS

McDade - Lieutenant James Patrick, died on active service. Proudly remembered by Command Staff, Officers and Personnel, England. At home in a happy family.

Talks this week on new Eire President

By Robert Fisk The leaders of the three or four political parties in the Irish Republic are expected to meet this week to try to find an agreed nominee for President of the Republic of Ireland after the death early yesterday of Mr Earsne Childers.

Death notices in Saturday's Irish News in memory of James McDade, who was killed by his own bomb at Coventry on Thursday.

Intensive security jail planned in Ulster

From Christopher Walker Belfast Plans for a large intensive security prison in Northern Ireland will be announced this week by Mr Rees, the Secretary of State.

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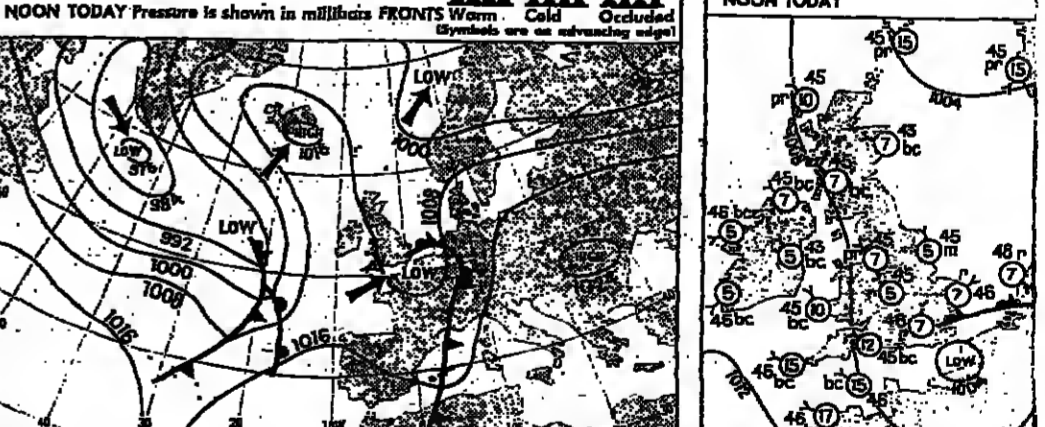
And it's nice to know you're welcome. So we make sure that the people who look after you before, during and after your flight are the sort of people who often say "You're welcome"—and who always mean it.

Welsh votes barred in miners' poll

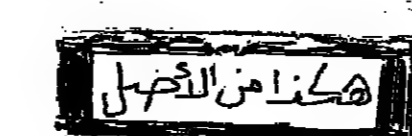
When the coal board meets national officials of the NUM tomorrow, ostensibly to talk about NCB interference in the ballot, it will almost certainly pave the way for interim pay talks aimed at securing peace in the pits for the time being with an all-round increase for 250,000 miners.

Table titled 'MINERS' BALLOT ON COAL BOARD PRODUCTIVITY SCHEME'. Columns include Coalfield, Yes, % in favour, No, Total Valid, and Feb strike ballot.

Weather forecast and recordings



Today Sun rises: 7.23 am, 4.8 pm. Moon rises: 11.11 am, 8.5 pm. First quarter: November 21. High water: London Bridge 4.0 am, 5.9 pm (22.6ft); 4.26 pm, 7.0 am (22.9ft).





Talks over Crossman

aries creates lemma for Mr Foot

Michael Hatfield... publication of the... diaries of the late... Crossman, is placing Mr... Secretary of State for Em... in an invidious... of those closely in... believe that the Govern... may delay publication of... diaries because of their... about Cabinet meetings... 1964-66 Labour Adminis... that prediction is accurate... publishers meet the... Mr Foot may be... with the choice of re... as one of Mr Crossman's... or from the... The other two execu... Mrs Anne Crossman... Mr Graham C. Green... aging director of Jonathan... the publishers... ere an impasse to be... and the Government... ed to enforce its decision... or the Official Secrets Act... the courts, the legal... would have to be brought... Mr Silkin, the Attorney... eral. An impossible situation

would arise if two Cabinet ministers found themselves on opposite sides in a case before the courts. Mr Foot is understood to have had the situation very much in mind when he accepted Mr Wilson's offer to join the Cabinet when Labour was returned to office in February. He discussed his position with the other executives. They are understood to have told him that they had no objection if he wished to resign. Mr Foot decided against resigning, saying that he had given a promise to Mr Crossman, who was a close friend, and that he treated the appointment seriously. It was being suggested last night that Mrs Crossman and Mr Greene, might not look so favourably on his resignation now that it appeared that battle had been joined. Mr Foot's views on the merits of the Crossman diaries were made public at a memorial service for Mr Crossman on May 15. His address on that occasion is to be published, with those by other speakers at the service, in book form by Granada.

Egon Ronay's guide lists 200 London restaurants where £5.50 buys a good meal for two

The peaks and troughs of British fare

By Philip Howard... the depths, this year exploring the catering provided at Heathrow and Gatwick airports. The only possible moral to be drawn from its exploration is that anybody who has to fly from London should either take sandwiches or go hungry. The description of filth, grudging service, long waits and foul food is an antidote to appetite. The only positive comment it can make about the catering at Heathrow is about the buffet in terminal 2, where staff manage to keep cheerful and friendly in the grim conditions. A pat of butter weighing a quarter of an ounce cost 4p there; that works out for those prodigal enough to eat butter regularly at Heathrow at £2.56 a pound. At Gatwick the restaurant is described as "absolutely deplorable; dirty, with poor food and inept service". In the buffet, also managed by J. Lyons, the room is dreary and dirty and the food unacceptable. The grill is said to offer indifferent food with service that is inattentive but affable and willing. The guide argues that airports, like motorways and rail

way stations, lend themselves to monopolistic situations because that is the easy way out for the authorities. It concludes: "The British Airport Authority, just as its opposite number in respect of motorways, the Department of the Environment, does not exercise effective supervision and control regarding the standards of food and service; they have the right, and in our view the duty, to do so, stipulated in the catering contracts." Nevertheless, even in the harsh world of 1975 not everything is overflowing ashtrays, butter pats worth their weight in gold and beardless waiters. Egon Ronay awards three stars, his supreme classification, to the Connaught Hotel restaurant in London; the Box Tree at Ilkley, Yorkshire; and the Laverloch Castle, Fort William. The restaurant of the Shezan in Knightsbridge, an Indian restaurant awarded two stars and commended for "their great achievement of sustained excellence to five years of existence". The Dunlop Guide, 1975 (Hutchinson, £2.75).



Some of 8,000 Jewish ex-Servicemen who marched in their remembrance parade in Whitehall yesterday.

Solicitors oppose levy on self employed

A proposed levy on the self-employed would be followed by more measures until all self-employed people were removed, a conference at Leamington Spa of the British Legal Association, a solicitors' ginger group, was told yesterday. Mr Walker Elwell, supporting a motion opposing the increase, said: "The left wing of the Labour Party hates self-employed people... Year by year this tax will steadily increase until all self-employed people are removed." Mr Elwell was speaking of the social security amendment Bill, under which the self-employed will pay more but get no additional benefit. The conference unanimously passed the motion. Mr Elwell said the Chancellor of the Exchequer had found a class of people who did not seem to have a particular union, organization or means of expressing themselves. He was going to tax them mercilessly. The motion was proposed by Mr Arnold Weisler, who said the social security increase was nothing more than an extra income tax. It was one of the greatest breaches of the principle of treating the whole nation as one family that could be conceived.

Police criticized over tactics at demonstrations

The National Council for Civil Liberties has complained that tactics of the Special Patrol Group of the Metropolitan Police cause confusion and confusion. A document which it will submit today to the resumed official inquiry which Lord Justice Scarman is conducting in the clashes between left-wingers and police in Red Lion Square, London, in June, the council says: "It is particularly noticeable that the Special Patrol Group has developed a reputation for such tactics, which in itself serves to raise the temperature of the situation." The council says it has in the past paid tribute to police on duty at demonstrations, but that the present wave of violence, including sudden police manoeuvres were liable to breed confusion and violence. It criticizes the idea that the police should be able of their own volition to decide whether a demonstration is to take place.

Risk of heavy unemployment, Tory says

The level of unemployment by this time next year would depend more than anything else on the size of pay settlements in the next few months, Mr Robert Carr, Opposition spokesman on Treasury Affairs, said on Saturday. "The choice really is between more pay or more jobs," he told a conference of Young Conservatives at Crick, near Northampton. If pay rises on average could be kept down to a level that did no more than match the increases in prices, then there was hope of keeping the upsurge in unemployment within reasonable bounds. "But if they go above this, the position will become very serious," he added. Mr Carr criticized the Government for scrapping the Conservative Administration's anti-inflation controls and for allowing the present wage explosion to develop. "Now," he said, "the danger of heavy unemployment in the next year or two is much greater than it need have been." Mr Jeremy Thorpe, the Liberal leader, said on Saturday that housewives would soon be joining farmers in street protests unless something was done to save British agriculture from bankruptcy. Speaking at Barnstable, he said: "Two years ago a Tory government... did, away with

148 people died last year while bathing

By a Staff Reporter... A small boy fell into a hucket of water up to his shoulders and could not get out, and another fell into a water boiler while concrete was being mixed. The infants were two of 136 children drowned last year while playing near water, a report by the Royal Life Saving Society says today. The comparative figure for 1971, when the previous survey was made, was 118. Excluding suicide and open verdict deaths, 715 people died from drowning in 1973 (750 in 1971). It was a good, mild summer, when there is more bathing than in cooler weather, and there were 148 deaths from bathing (against 181; 47 in the sea, 91 in inland waters, and 10 cases where the distinction was not clear, but which probably occurred inland). There were 35 deaths in supervised swimming pools (36 in 1971). Seven victims, including four aged 11-15, died while trying to swim across rivers and there were 30 deaths among anglers. In 58 of the drownings (51 in 1971), alcohol was a contributory cause. Analysis of Fatal Drowning Accidents, 1973 (Royal Life Saving Society, 14 Devonshire Street, London, W1N 2AT).

Social services 'ignoring' elderly black people

By Pat Healy... Social Services Correspondent... Local authorities should give money to local black groups to enable them to supply "curry on wheels" and other social services to elderly immigrants, an Age Concern report says today. Most of the 27,000 elderly black people in Britain have needs which are rarely met by local authority social services, it says. The report, written by two staff members of the Community Relations Commission, says that elderly black people share the same hardships as elderly white people in deprived inner-city areas, where their housing is poor and they survive on low incomes. But elderly black people are particularly at risk because they are over-represented in such areas and suffer from insecurity, frequent moves and a challenge to their own culture. In addition, they are deprived of the care they would have received in their home country. In most of the new Commonwealth countries they would expect care as of right from the rest of the family. But in Britain, the cultural

Transfusion girl dies

Angela Watson, aged six, who was given a bone marrow transfusion two months ago, died from heart failure in Middlesex hospital on Saturday.

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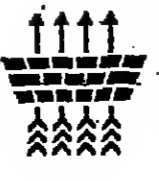


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HOME NEWS

Continued growth in wealth an illusion, Lord Avebury says

By Our Political Staff
A strong attack on British politicians, trade unionists and industrialists for propagating the illusion that there can be an everlasting growth in wealth and incomes was made by Lord Avebury, the Liberal peer, in his presidential address to the Conservation Society in Edinburgh yesterday.

It was inconceivable, Lord Avebury said, that industrial growth was a mathematical impossibility. Modest growth of 3 per cent was not plausible from the point of view of energy implications alone.

Garage men plan to march over petrol price

By Roger Vialvoys
The owners of thousands of garage breakdown trucks from all over Britain are threatening to converge with them on Parliament within the next two weeks unless the Government concedes higher profit margins for petrol retailers.

Ramblers oppose Peak Park quarry scheme

If ICI proposals to quarry limestone from 280 acres near Tunstead, in the Peak District National Park, were permitted the door would be opened to large-scale quarrying in national parks.

Protest to Mr Benn on end of EEC Welsh surveys

Mr Dafydd Thomas, Plaid Cymru MP for Merioneth and the party's European spokesman, is to protest to the House of Commons this week over the decision by Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Industry, to stop three studies by the European Community Commission into the industrial and regional needs of South Wales.

Wales should get the full benefit of the Community's regional policy. Threatened steel closures still hanging over South Wales needed to be fully investigated and if support from a European Community study of the social consequences of closure could be obtained, it would be a major argument against running down the steel industry.



Contestants for the Miss World title, to be judged at the Albert Hall on Friday, photographed at the Empire Theatre, Leicester Square, yesterday.

School hope for new children at Newham

By Tim Devlin
Education Correspondent
Places may be found by the end of next week for most of the 130 children waiting to go to secondary schools in the London borough of Newham.

Parole Board 'wrong to consider man's job prospect'

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent
The Parole Board is wrong when considering parole for a prisoner to consider whether the man has a job to go to, or even whether his employment prospects are good, states a report published yesterday by the Apex Trust, the employment agency for former prisoners backed by the Home Office.

The requirement that a man should lead an industrious life should be deleted from the parole licence. The present system causes men to panic about their employment prospects and creates tremendous difficulties for organizations trying to find work for former prisoners.

Each parole applicant should be informed of the result of his application three months before his eligibility date. Where three months' notification of parole is given, the man should be offered every opportunity to approach anyone likely to be able to find him a job, especially agencies like the trust and the Department of Employment.

Employment and Parole, by Keith Soothill and Freddie Penney (Apex Charitable Trust, 9 Poland Street, London, W1V 3DC. 40p post free).

Oxfam in deficit over appeal for Indian aid

By a Staff Reporter
Oxfam has gone into deficit for the first time, in an attempt to meet the call for help from India. Yesterday the organization announced an appeal for £50,000 to meet the commitment.

Polytechnic students plan 'disruption' on grants claim

By Stephen Coheo
The polytechnic students' conference represents a sixth of the Union's total membership. Student grants were raised by a quarter six months ago to £605 a year.

The disruption recommended would affect academic and administrative affairs in colleges. A national rent strike was also demanded.

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- 3. Another hydro-electric scheme even larger than the Cabora Bassa is under consideration. The project will be based on the Tugela, Natal's biggest river, and preliminary estimates indicate that it will cost more than £313 million.

expected to be in operation towards the end of 1976. We're still backing Britain. Already British enterprise, has played a major role in our development. It's estimated that of all direct investment in South Africa by foreign companies, UK capital and technical know-how represent 60 per cent of the total.

A brief picture of South African Industry. "South Africa is on the eve of a golden new era of economic developments and achievements." Not the words of an optimistic politician, but a hard-headed financier, Dr. Jan Marais.

- 10. Similar new harbour work is being done at Saldanha Bay where expenditure on berths and bulk handling is estimated at around £44 million. Two dry docks, able to accommodate vessels up to 500,000 tons are also planned.

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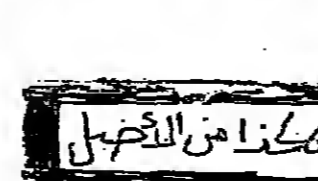
Unlike Welsh Indians and whisky, Radio Cymru will be one dream come true

It has always been much harder for Welshmen to realize their dreams than Englishmen. More Englishmen have been born with silver spoons in their mouths than Welshmen who, as the whole, have had to make do with wooden spoons.

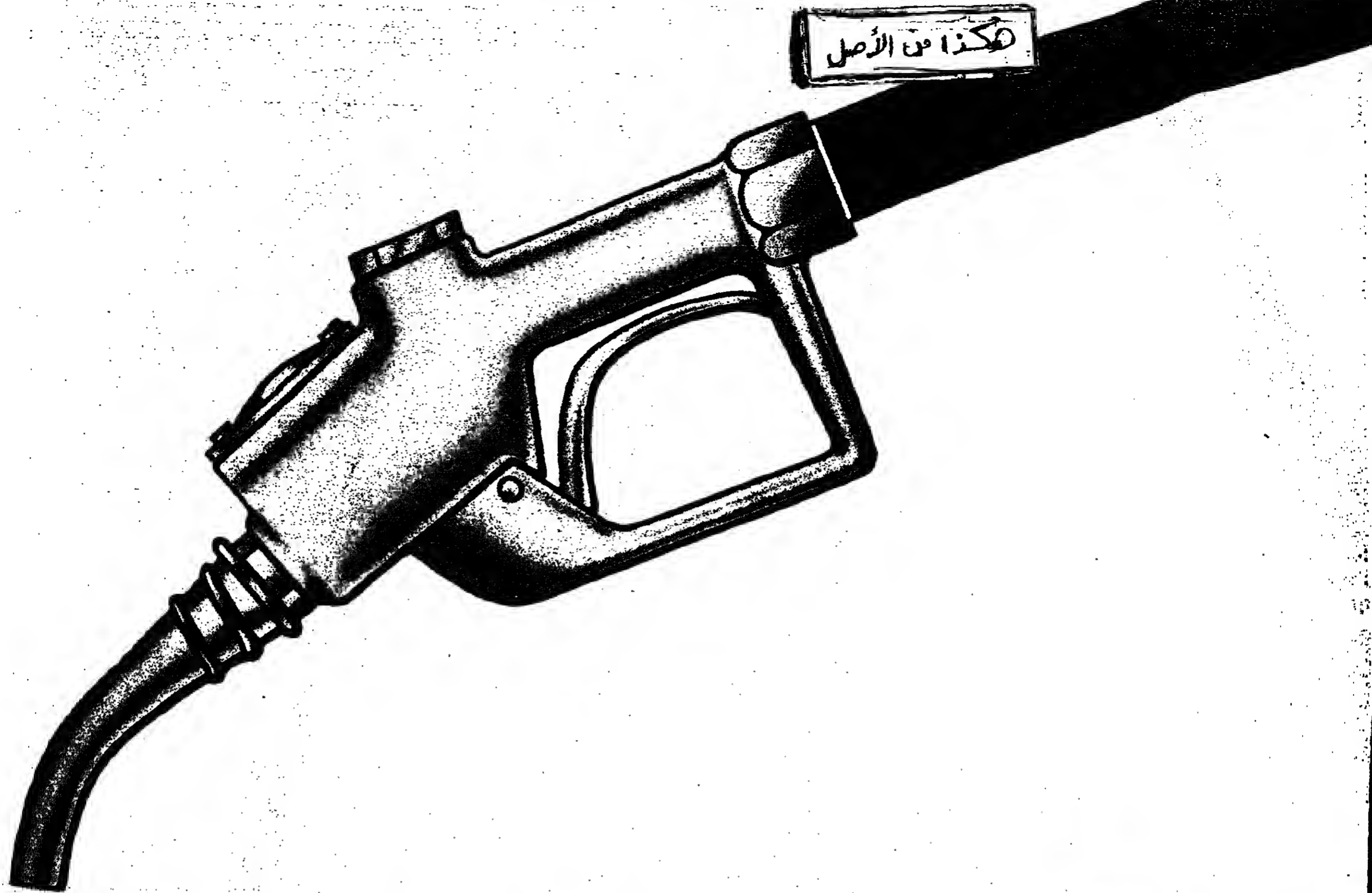
Regional report
Trevor Fishlock
Cardiff
It is a serious issue, because television and radio play a part in the fortunes of Welsh and the next 10 years are reckoned to be crucial for the language.

Measurably many Welshmen are dreaming hard about a better service; that is, a service with good reception on all channels everywhere in Wales and with a fourth channel operating so that there are more Welsh programmes and more children to look at the Welsh programmes.

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Make your own comparisons, and we think you'll agree that now, more than ever it's time to buy a new car at your Austin or Morris showroom.

mpg at constant road speed	mpg at 30 mph	mpg at 40 mph	mpg at 50 mph	mpg at 60 mph	mpg at 70 mph
MINI* 1000 	<b>61.0</b>	<b>53.5</b>	<b>46.5</b>	<b>39.0</b>	<b>30.5</b>
ALLEGRO 1500 	<b>52.0</b>	<b>49.0</b>	<b>44.0</b>	<b>37.5</b>	<b>32.0</b>
MAXI 1750 	<b>47.5</b>	<b>45.0</b>	<b>41.0</b>	<b>35.5</b>	<b>30.0</b>
MARINA 1.8 	<b>52.0</b>	<b>48.0</b>	<b>41.5</b>	<b>35.0</b>	<b>30.5</b>

Figures by courtesy of Motor. \*Mini is a Registered Trade Mark of British Leyland.





WEST EUROPE

Mr Peart sets out for Brussels to protect Britain's supplies of sugar, beef, butter and cheese

From David Cross, Brussels, Nov 17

In his most difficult EEC assignment to date, Mr Peart, the Minister of Agriculture, will this week try to persuade his Community partners to take steps to safeguard future supplies of sugar, beef, butter and cheese in British shops.

price the Community offers to pay.

Mr Peart is expected to suggest a figure of at least £140 million to pay to secure the Community's own sugar, beef, butter and cheese supplies. This suggested figure could well run into opposition from the French, in particular, on the ground that it would be above the price paid to the Community's own sugar and beef producers.

At present British farmers are receiving premiums when their cattle are slaughtered under an EEC scheme negotiated by Mr Peart in July. These increases are to be paid to encourage farmers to delay the marketing of their cattle as long as possible.

But this system has failed to operate properly and farmers in Britain are suffering severely from soaring costs and slumping market prices as more and more cattle go on to the market. Finally, the ministers will discuss plans to increase by 18 per cent the price paid to New Zealand farmers for their exports of butter and cheese to Britain. If the suggestion, which was made by the European Commission after pressure from the New Zealand Government, is approved by the Nine, New Zealand farmers could expect to receive an extra £10m or so next year.

Mr Alexander Solzhenitsyn speaking at a press conference in Zurich at which he announced the publication of a book of essays by six other Soviet dissidents.



Mr Alexander Solzhenitsyn speaking at a press conference in Zurich at which he announced the publication of a book of essays by six other Soviet dissidents.

Signor Moro expected to throw in his hand

From Peter Nicholas, Rome, Nov 17

Years are now being expressed that the Italian political crisis will worsen this week if Signor Moro, the Prime Minister-designate is forced tomorrow to admit defeat in his efforts at forming a government.

General Spinoza retired under Lisbon rejuvenation

From Jose Shercliff, Lisbon, Nov 17

General Antonio de Spinoza, Portugal's President until the reported coup attempt of September 28, has now been retired from the army. So have all other generals over 62 years of age.

Army begins to clear refuse in Paris streets

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris, Nov 17

The Army was called in yesterday to begin clearing the mountains of rubbish which had accumulated over the previous three days in the streets of Paris, owing to a strike by dustmen.

Paris disenchanted over summit

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, Nov 17

The foreign ministers of the Nine are meeting in Paris tomorrow to put the finishing touches to that part of the agenda of the proposed summit conference of heads of government which deals with institutional problems and the improvement of the decision-making machinery of the Community.

The Pope utters curse on kidnappers' money

From Our Correspondent, Rome, Nov 17

The Pope today added his voice to the public outcry against the ransom money of recent kidnappings in Italy. Three abductions within 36 hours in Lombardy alone have caused new public concern.

Spanish veterans unite

Madrid, Nov 17—Veterans of the Spanish Civil War formed a confederation today, apparently as a first step to heeding a political association.

Navarro, the Prime Minister, has promised to allow political associations before the end of the year.

Observers said that the veterans tried to counterbalance efforts by the left to form political associations.

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Paris disenchanted over summit

take place and that it will achieve something useful, unlike in Paris and Copenhagen.

There is surprise that the French Government should be accused, as it was by the West German Chancellor last Wednesday, of indulging in a "little game". It is pointed out in Paris, it is aimed at nothing other than holding the Community together by making it more effective and coherent.

Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes: Mr Callaghan faces some tricky manoeuvring in Paris when he attends the foreign ministers' meeting. He and Mr de Gaulle do not exactly eye to eye on reform of the Community's institutions, but it will be important for Mr Callaghan at least to show willingness.

President Giscard d'Estaing sees considerable scope in discussing institutional questions at the proposed summit and French support for Mr Callaghan's own plans is essential.

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Advertisement for 'MOTHER'S HELP' featuring a woman and child, with contact information for Mrs. M. J. Jones.

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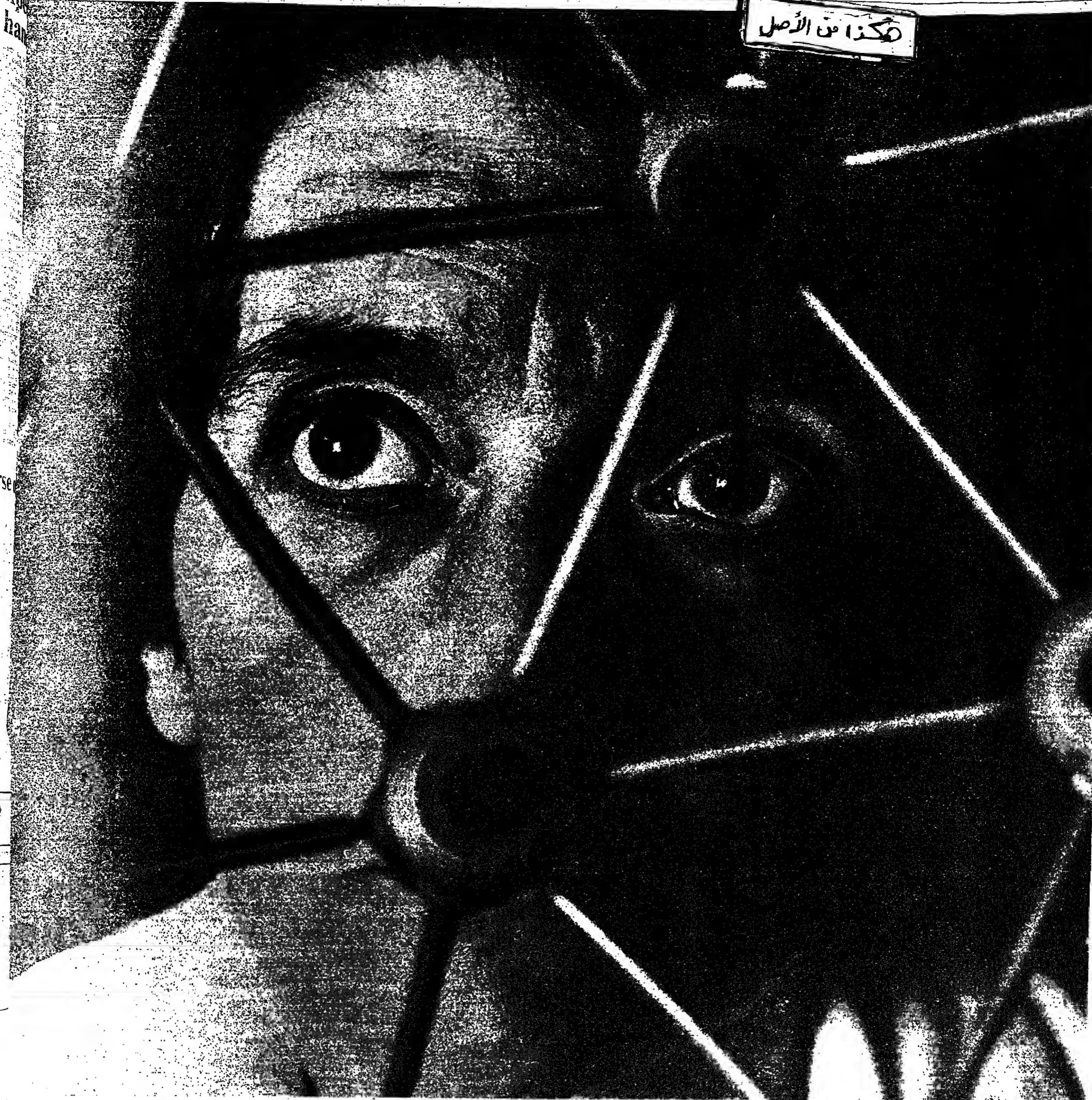


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OVERSEAS

Pravda lashes policy of the West as summit draws near

From Edmund Stevens Moscow, Nov 17 A cautious low key approach is taken in Soviet comment as the Ford-Brezhnev summit nears. The senior Pravda commentator, Victor Mayevsky, set the tone by saying that the Soviet people hope the meetings next weekend will serve the further development of United States-Soviet relations to the benefit of both peoples and the entire world.

Syria and Israel both deny plans for war

Continued from page 1 1973, the Syrians have been rebuilding their military strength with massive Russian assistance. There is a growing Arab conviction that Israel is certain to undertake a pre-emptive attack against Syria with the principal objective of destroying its military machine. It is the Arab view that the Israelis would hope for a successful blitzkrieg which could be completed before Egypt would be forced to open up its front.

reactiounary" newspaper New York Daily News demands that Israel be regarded as sacred as a fifty-first state of the United States. Turning to the energy crisis, Mr Mayevsky reports that some American publications are openly discussing the possibility of military intervention against the oil producing countries to avert another oil embargo, and that American policy now advocates a "holy alliance" with Western Europe and Japan in order to bring the oil producing countries to their knees.

Syria and Israel both deny plans for war

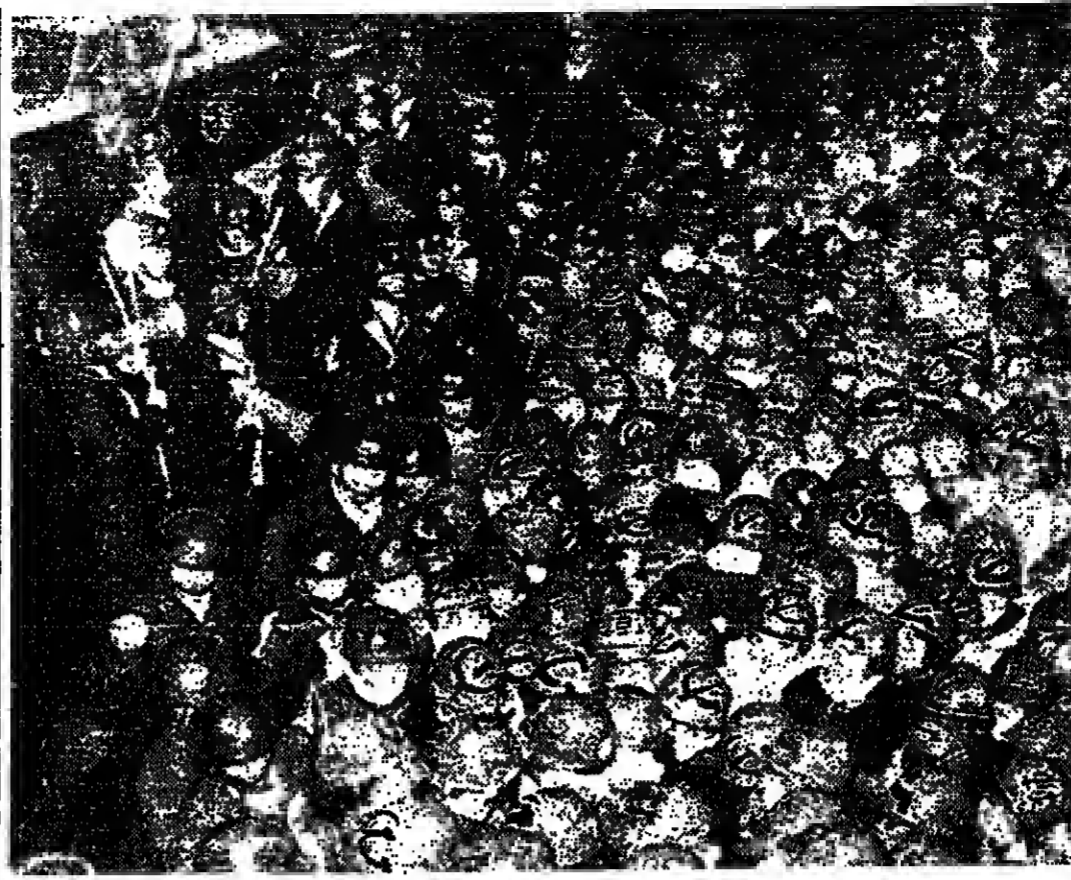
Continued from page 1 Patrick Brogan writes from Washington: There was much activity in Washington this weekend as Dr Henry Kissinger, the Secretary of State, tried to discover how serious the Middle East war scare was. He summoned the Israeli Ambassador, Mr Simcha Dimiz, yesterday and told him that he had received assurances that Syria had no plans to attack Israel.

Vladivostok will be relief after Japan

From Patrick Brogan Washington, Nov 17 Mr Leonid Brezhnev visited the United States in June, 1973, and the Senate Watergate committee very considerably went into recess for a week. It was treated tactful to prevent Mr John Dean from upstaging the Soviet party leader. Mr Brezhnev kindly overlooked the fact that the presidency of Mr Richard Nixon was disintegrating, and a series of minor but useful agreements were reached by the two sides.

Syria and Israel both deny plans for war

Continued from page 1 Reports from Egypt and Israel were not kept. In a draconian move against smugglers and "economic offenders" the Indian Government yesterday suspended for six months the constitutionally guaranteed right of judicial appeal of those arrested under recently amended preventive detention laws.



Helmeted police herd helmeted students thronging Tokyo streets against President Ford's visit.

Tokyo girds itself for Ford visit

From Peter Hazelbursht Tokyo, Nov 17 Little or nothing of substance is expected to emerge from summit talks between Japanese and American leaders when President Ford begins an otherwise historic and symbolic seven-day state visit to Japan and South Korea. The significance of Mr Ford's forthcoming odyssey in the Orient is indeed historic. He will become the first American head of state to visit Japan when he arrives at Haneda airport tomorrow afternoon to a 21-gun salute.

declaration that Japan is not prepared to comply with Dr Kissinger's plan to reduce the consumer nations' imports of oil. If any real political significance can be attached to the visit then it is the fact that President Ford could not have chosen a more inopportune moment to travel to Tokyo and South Korea. In Tokyo he will be meeting a Prime Minister who is already described as a lame duck. It is indeed doubtful whether Mr Tanaka will remain in office after he has gone through the courtesy of receiving the American President. He has so far failed to satisfy charges that he has indulged in dubious business deals and evaded taxes while in office.

Railway workers' unions, under the influence of Socialist and Communist Parties, plan to paralyse train services on Tuesday to coincide their protests with the climax of the visit; the formal and historic meeting between a Japanese Emperor and an American President. In essence, the Opposition parties oppose the visit on the grounds that Mr Tanaka will use it to bolster up his crumbling political image in the country. The Opposition claims that it is capable of mustering nearly four million demonstrators during the visit and the ultra left-wing extremists have threatened to disrupt Mr Ford's itinerary. As a result, the extraordinarily tight security arrangements will completely isolate the American President from the Japanese people and all main opposition parties.

World resolve to end hunger in a decade

From Peter Nichols Rome, Nov 17 The world food conference ended in Rome late last night after 11 days of debate with the pledge that "within a decade no child will go to bed hungry, that no family will fear for its next day's bread". The words were taken from the speech by which Dr Kissinger, the American Secretary of State, opened the first day of debate, but Mr Sayed Marei, secretary general of the conference, in his closing remarks last night, pointed out to delegates that the resolve was now "a solemn pledge of the entire international community". Mr Marei continued: "History will judge the adequacy of our policies and actions in relation to this pledge."

Body of Eva Peron taken back to Argentina

Buenos Aires, Nov 17—The embalmed body of Eva Duarte Peron, who was the idol of Argentine workers, returned to Buenos Aires today almost 19 years after it was smuggled away by soldiers who overthrew her husband, the late President Juan Peron. The body was brought from Madrid, where it had lain for the past three years, on board a chartered Boeing 707 of Aerolineas Argentinas, which arrived early this morning at Moron air base on the outskirts of the city. The coffin, draped in an Argentine flag which concealed a glass plate over the face, was transferred to a small Air Force transport aircraft and taken to the metropolitan airport on the shore of the River Plate estuary.

Indian smugglers lose right of appeal

From Michael Hornsby Delhi, Nov 17 In a draconian move against smugglers and "economic offenders" the Indian Government yesterday suspended for six months the constitutionally guaranteed right of judicial appeal of those arrested under recently amended preventive detention laws. Defending the new measures against strong criticism from opposition parties, Mr Brahmananda Reddy, the Home Minister, said that it was "very necessary to ensure that smugglers are not let off on technical grounds".

precise or specific or proximate. The new presidential ordinance was necessary, Mr Reddy argued in a briefing for Indian journalists, because it was difficult to catch smugglers or foreign exchange racketeers red handed on account of the clandestine nature of their operations. Hitherto anyone arrested under the preventive detention provisions of the Maintenance of Internal Security Act, which was amended a few months ago to cover a new category of "economic offenders", could seek a judicial review of his case.

months with parliamentary approval, which is ensured by the ruling Congress Party's massive majority. Opposition parties were unanimous over the weekend in pronouncing the Government move unconstitutional. They argued that already existing laws were sufficient to deal with smugglers and asked why no measures had yet been taken against the smugglers' political patrons. The strongest reaction came from Mr Jyotirmoy Bose, the leader of the more militant of India's two Communist Parties, who accused Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister, of "aspiring to be a fascist leader."

Mr Ford withdraws name of Nixon man as envoy

From Our Own Correspondent Washington, Nov 17 President Ford has bowed to congressional opposition to a nomination he had sent to the Senate, by withdrawing the name of Mr Peter Flannigan, whom he had nominated Ambassador to Spain. This followed by a few days the President's withdrawal of the nomination of Mr Andrew Gibson to the head of the Federal Energy Administration. There was no chance of Mr Flannigan's nomination being approved. He is a Nixon man, and worked with him in the White House for six years. This could be nearly enough to ruin his chances of an ambassadorship, but he is also accused of being Mr Nixon's embassy broker and of selling American

embassies to those who might contribute to the reelection of Mr Nixon in 1972. The chief surprise is that Mr Ford should have nominated him in the first place and then have resubmitted the nomination after the Senate had allowed it to die by refusing to act on it before the election recess. The White House also announced the nomination of a new Ambassador to Portugal, Mr Frank Carlucci, who is Under-Secretary for Health, Education and Welfare. He will replace Mr Stuart Nash, who was removed from his post because it seemed to his superiors that he underestimated the dangers of a communist presence in the Portuguese Government.

Colombo curfew stops protest by Trotskyists

From Our Correspondent Colombo, Nov 17 Colombo was put under a curfew from 1 pm yesterday until 6 am today after the Trotskyist Sama Samaja (Equal Society) Party decided to stage a ban on a demonstration it had planned to hold yesterday evening. Because of the curfew, about 1,000 party supporters—the men wearing red shirts and the women red saris—who had gathered at a park for the demonstration were asked by Trotskyist leaders to go home, which they did. Mrs Bandaranaike, the Prime Minister, arrived at Colombo airport late last night after a visit to the Soviet Union and was flown to her official residence by helicopter. In recent weeks both the Trotskyists and the pro-Moscow Communists, who are members of Mrs Bandaranaike's United Front Government have intensified propaganda in their party journals for the nationalization of foreign banks and big companies.

Turkish Cabinet formed by independent senator

From Our Correspondent Ankara, Nov 17 Mr Sadi Imrak, an independent senator, today announced the formation of a new Turkish Government made up mostly of academicians and civil servants. The Cabinet consists of seven independent senators and four deputies of the right-wing Republican Reliance Party, the only political group that agreed to join Mr Imrak's administration. Non-parliamentary Cabinet members are: six civil servants, seven professors, one trade unionist, and a former Reliance Party deputy.

The new Government is as follows: Prime Minister: Sadi Imrak. Deputy Prime Minister: Zeynal Bayraktar. Minister of State: Mustafa Faruk. Minister of Foreign Affairs: Mustafa Bayraktar. Minister of Health: Mustafa Bayraktar. Minister of Education: Mustafa Bayraktar. Minister of Agriculture: Mustafa Bayraktar. Minister of Industry: Mustafa Bayraktar. Minister of Information: Ilhan Evliyoglu. Minister of Public Health: Mustafa Bayraktar. Minister of Social Security: Mustafa Bayraktar.

Advertisement for COMMUNICOR newspapers. Text: 'Everyone who delivers newspapers can win a Community Service Award'. Includes a small illustration of a dog and the COMMUNICOR logo.

Advertisement for OXFAM. Text: 'URGENT! World Food Crisis'. Includes a black and white photograph of a young child and the text 'brother or brother'. At the bottom is a form for donations and the OXFAM logo.

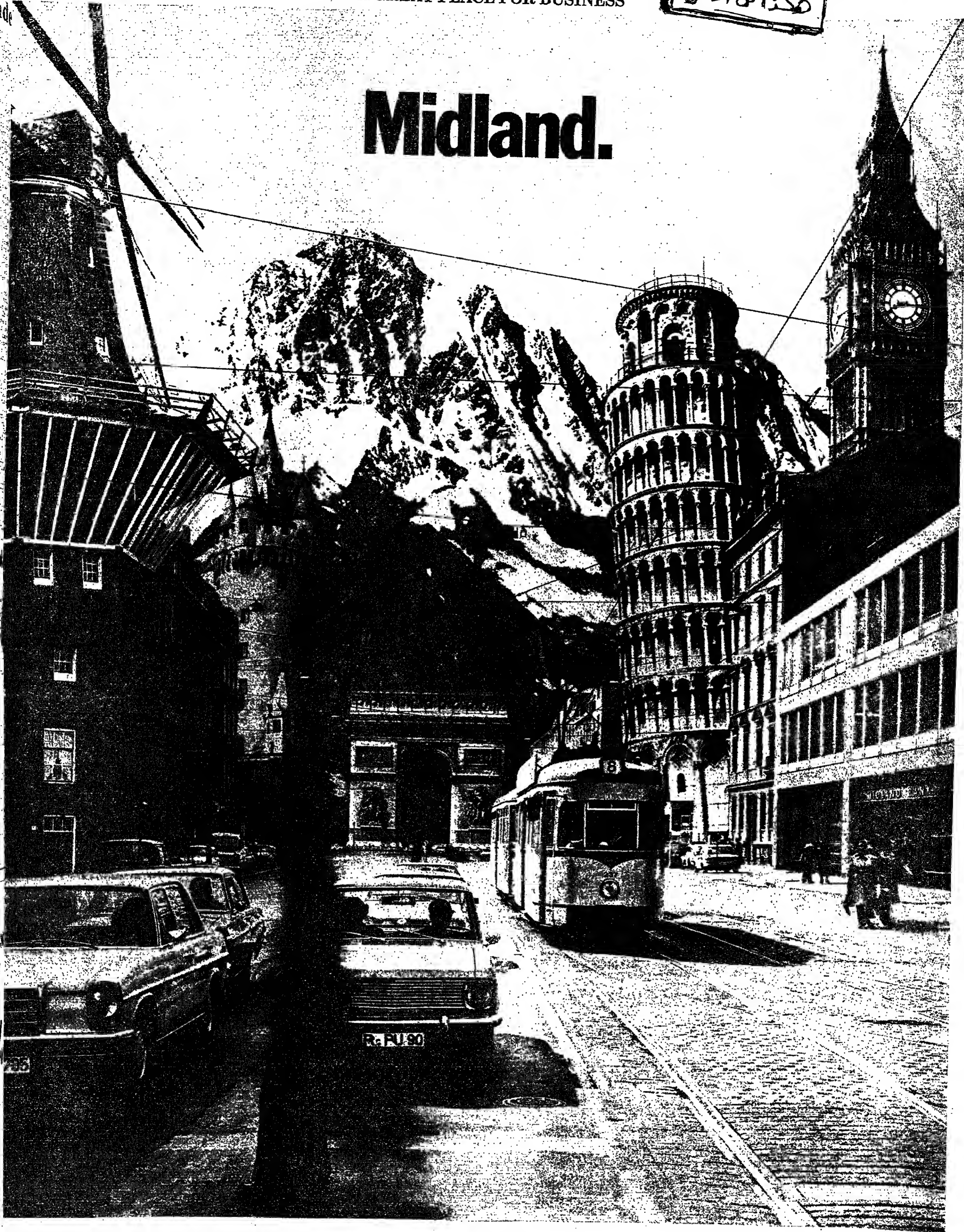
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OVERSEAS

# Eight African homeland leaders reject Mr Vorster's concept of independent Bantustans

From Michael Knipe  
Cape Town, Nov 17

The gulf between the aspirations of South Africa's white and black political leaders became sharply evident this weekend.

Eight African homeland leaders made it clear that at this stage they reject the concept of independent Bantustans which is a cornerstone of the Government's apartheid policy.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister, Mr Vorster, stated emphatically that one man one vote representation in a single parliament was out of the question. Thus the races continue to be set on a course of bitter confrontation.

The homeland leaders emphasised after a conference that black South Africans were entitled to a joint future with whites in the Republic and a share in the country's riches.

They said in a statement that some of them quarrelled with the decision of the Transkei to seek independence within the framework of the Government's separate development policy.

But, they said: "No other black leader had any intention at this point in time to seek independence for any other territory. The Transkei, which is divided in only two blocks of land, is the homeland with the greatest hope of viability and its conservative leader, Chief Kaiser Matanzima, has requested independence from South Africa within five years."

The other leaders are not

prepared to accept independence at least until their fragmented territories have been consolidated and provided with a viable economic infrastructure. Even then it is uncertain whether they would agree to independence.

Professor Ntanzwisi, the leader of Garankulu, a tiny enclave in the Transkei bordering Mozambique, said yesterday that to do so would be to sell their birthright as South Africans. "We would lose our claims to South Africa's wealth and would be abandoning our claims to an economy that we have helped build up," he said.

Professor Ntanzwisi said that Government's Bantustan concept could not be abandoned at this late stage but the Bantustans should form an integral part of South Africa.

The black political leaders expressed favour for a federal solution to the republic's race problem "within a single economically indivisible country".

The Prime Minister, in a speech to supporters yesterday said blacks would have majority rule in their homelands "but the whites will rule South Africa".

In a message to the homeland leaders he said: "If there are any of you who nourish the hope of one man one vote in the white Parliament then you are being misled because it will not happen."

Mr Vorster contended that his party's policy was one of differentiation, not discrimination. It intended to remove dis-

crimination if it existed. However, under no circumstances could political power leave the hands of "our people". When power was shared it could not be regained.

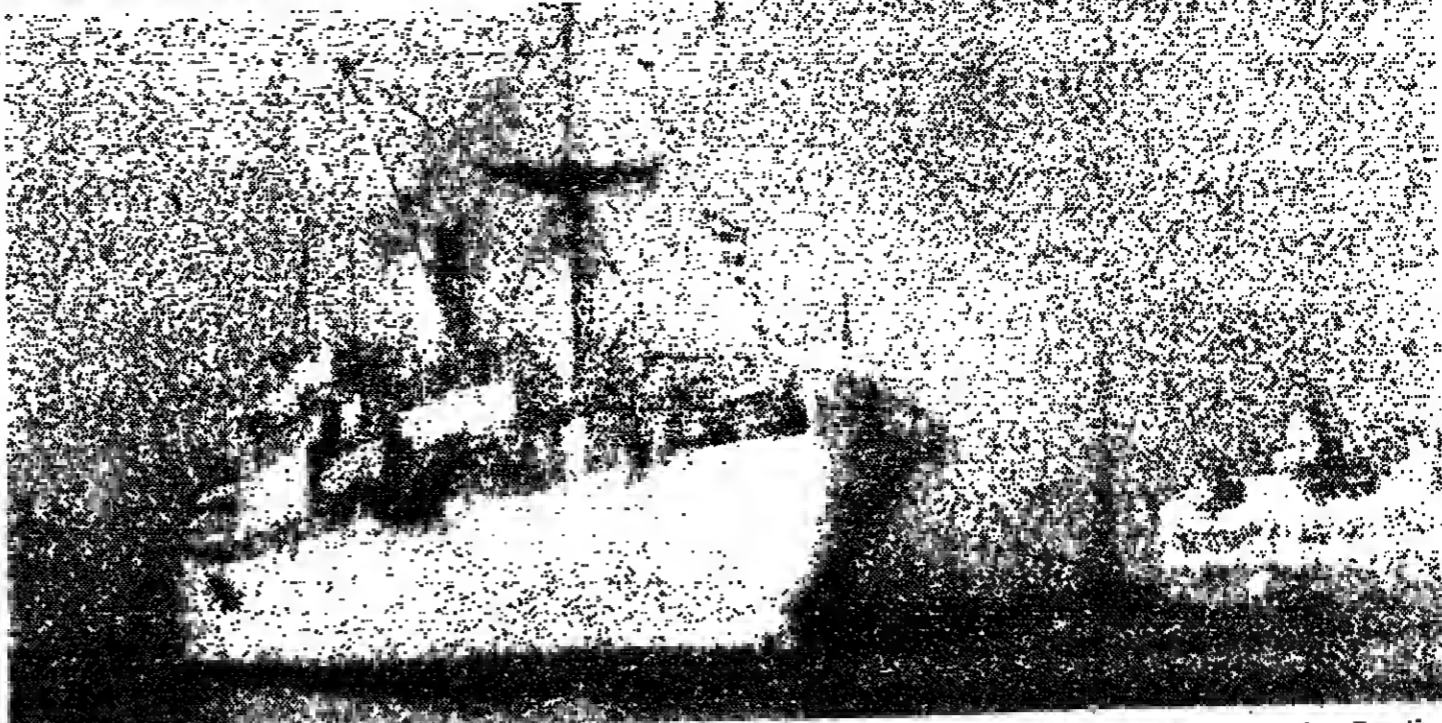
The Prime Minister reiterated his promise of a startling change in South Africa's political situation in six months time but denied that this inferred changes in the government's apartheid policies. Any internal changes would be within the framework of separate development, he said.

At their meeting, the black political leaders endorsed the moves towards detente in Southern Africa made by Mr Vorster and President Kaunda of Zambia.

Mr Donald Easton, the United States Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, who is visiting South Africa during a fact-finding mission to the continent said at a press conference yesterday that he was "cautiously optimistic" about the possibility of change in the Republic.

## Islands to vote on independence

Moroni, Nov 17.—Mr Ahmed Abdallah, the Premier of the Comoro Archipelago, today returned to Moroni from Paris where he has been engaged in arrangements for a referendum on independence in the Indian Ocean archipelago next month.



The first ship to use the Suez Canal commercially since 1967 passing Port Said on Saturday. It was leading three other Egyptian ships to Socx, where they are to pick up pilgrims bound for Mecca.

## Egypt warns superpowers of war dangers

From Our Correspondent  
Cairo, Nov 17

President Sadat has carried out urgent consultations with his senior political and military staff during the past 24 hours against the background of mounting tension in the Middle East.

The flurry of political, military and diplomatic activities here was prompted by reports of Israel and Syrian military build-ups.

Mr Sadat yesterday presided over a meeting attended by Field-Marshal Ahmed Ismail,

the War Minister, Mr Mamdouh Salem, the Interior Minister, Mr Ismail Fahmi, the Foreign Minister, and the Chief of Staff, Lieutenant-General Mohammad Abdul Ghani Ghami.

After the meeting Mr Fahmi summoned the American and Soviet ambassadors separately to convey urgent messages from President Sadat to President Ford and Mr Leonid Brezhnev, the Soviet party leader.

In this Mr Sadat warned the leaders of the two superpowers of the serious consequences of Israel's call-up of reserves and

movements of forces. Egypt has said it will not stand idly by if Israel attacks Syria.

Field-Marshal Ismail, Commander-in-Chief of the Egyptian and Syrian fronts, conferred yesterday with the Soviet Ambassador in Cairo, Mr Vladimir Polyakov.

The question of Soviet weapons supplies to this country is expected to be an important topic in the talks between Mr Sadat and Mr Brezhnev when the Soviet leader visits Cairo in January.

The atmosphere in Egypt was

normal today with thousands attending football matches in Cairo, Ismailia and other towns. But Cairo newspapers today gave warnings of the possibility of an Israeli attack.

Al Gomhouria said: "Israel waging a new war is not a remote probability. On the contrary, it is a possibility. It is not important to know whether Israel will start a new war or not but it is more important that she will not take us by surprise or wrest the initiative from us."

## Tension in Israel eases over Syria alert

From Moshe Brilliant  
Tel Aviv, Nov 17

Tensions at the weekend in Israel over the situation on the Syrian border ebated today after assurances from Washington that Syria did not intend to attack.

The immediate cause of the tension remained a mystery. Mr Peres, the Defence Minister, said vaguely last night the Israel had mobilized its reserve as a precaution in response to an "unexplained" alert to the Army.

Mr Peres said in a television interview that the Rabat summit conference had disrupted political moves and had brought the Arabs to the "extreme" of fanatical rhetoric of the Palestinians.

He noted that the Syria has been declaring that it would not extend the disengagement agreement, which expires on November 30, and that the United Nations forces that would have to leave.

On Friday, while the Israeli mobilization was in process, Rabin, the Prime Minister, said that more than 20 Soviet supply ships were unloading arms for Syria in Latakia.

Nervousness among Israeli civilians had been heightened by the military conscription, had been obvious that reserves were being called up on 1 day but the media in Israel and abroad were prevented from reporting it except quoting foreign sources.

Life in settlements and in villages on the Golan Heights seemed normal this week. All roads were open and it was tourist traffic all the way to the United Nations position. Army traffic was not particularly heavy, but buses mobilized reservists and ammunition convoys were seen.

The easing of tension was relative. Responsible Israeli maintained that the situation would remain dangerous as the Syrians decided to act under the mandate of the UN Nations observer force. force occupies a zone separate the Israeli and Syrian armies surveys limited zones on sides of the disengagement zone.

Soviet officials said today Syria's failure to renew the date would mean war. Syrians were demanding full Israeli withdrawals on the Heights as a condition for extension. It was believed they would drag out the negotiations and then probably a short of a short of General Chaim Herzog military commentator, said key lay with the Soviet Union. The flow of Soviet arms to end Iraq was part of a plan to keep the area simmering and slow relations to Soviet in the Persian Gulf.

Ferment among Arabs occupied areas, which has been developing since the appearance of Mr Yassir Arafat, the of the Palestine Liberation Organization, at the UN Nations. Mr Reus, went the weekend.

To Jein a girl was yesterday by a blow on the during a stone-throwing demonstration by schoolchildren was dispersed by Israeli Mourners at the funeral stoned Israelis.

The military governor ordered a school in Jein another in Hebron to be until the end of the school in June because of the Tel Aviv, Nov 17.—5 Edward Kennedy today p continuing United support for Israel, again. America would not be de by the Arab oil weapon. I ceremony of a new science school at Ben-Z University at Beer-Sheva. Reuter.

## Shah goes off to Moscow to talk trade

From Our Correspondent  
Teheran, Nov 17

The Shah of Iran will leave tomorrow for an official visit to the Soviet Union which is regarded here as vital both for bilateral relations and for the Middle East in general.

It is expected that an increase in trade will occupy much of the discussion. The volume of trade between the two countries experienced a slump early this year because of the disagreement that existed over the price of Iranian natural gas of which 10 billion tonnes is exported annually to the Soviet Union. A few months ago agreement was reached on a new price.

Experts believe that trade could expand greatly if only because of the two countries' proximity.

Also expected to be covered during the talks between the Shah and Soviet officials are his proposal for making the Middle East a nuclear-free zone. The Soviet Union has privately expressed its support for this idea.

## Soviet cruiser to visit Syrian port

Moscow, Nov 17.—The Soviet Union is to send three ships from its Black Sea fleet to the Syrian port of Latakia for an official visit from November 20 to 25, Tass announced today.

The group will consist of a cruiser—flagship of Vice-Admiral Nikolai Khovrin, commander-in-chief of the Black Sea fleet—a destroyer and a submarine.—Reuter.

## World recession spectre affects Canton fair

From David Bonavia  
Peking, Nov 17

The possibility of a world recession, and perhaps a shortage of funds on the Chinese side, have meant that the autumn trade fair which has just closed in Canton was one of the most depressed for a number of years.

Chinese official media have described the fair as a great success but Western officials and businessmen generally paint a picture of slow trading and falling attendances. One businessman went so far as to describe the fair as the most disappointing one "since the Cultural Revolution".

After China's buying spree of the past two years or so, the country is caught in a financial scissors because of the high world price of wheat, which it imports, and the relatively low price this year of rice, which it exports.

Chinese officials show keen

interest in recent economic problems of the developing world, which pose serious questions about future trading relations. While proclaiming a crisis of capitalism as a cation of Marxist ideas, Chinese commentators also that it has affected the power of those trading China.

By contrast with China genuinely seems to no internal inflation except the small sector of the economy which deals with foreign exchange. Imported inflation the Chinese may have it less abroad and rely on the labour and invent of their own people, even means slowing down the try's economic development.

Pitanaled currency is not traded internationally still valued quite real and is therefore not subject black market pressures in rouble and other currencies Eastern Europe.

## Chou operation said to be for stomach cancer

Peking, Nov 17.—Mr Chou En-lai, the Chinese Prime Minister, was operated on about 10 weeks ago for cancer of the stomach, according to reliable sources here. He is 76 and has been ill for six months.

His doctors are not yet able to say what have been the results of the operation or of the cobalt radiation treatment which he is now undergoing. It seems, however, that he is recovering satisfactorily.

When he received foreign visitors in hospital—as was the case five times in the last six weeks—Mr Chou was not in bed, walked normally and spoke with his usual wit.—Agence France-Presse.

## 'Don't call us Pommies' plea by Briton

Sydney, Nov 17.—Mr Stewart, an English immigrant here today he hopes before a Royal Commission to get Australians calling Britons "Pommies".

Mr Stewart, who came here 10 years ago from St. London, told reporters he needed to put his complaint to the Royal Commission on British Relationships, which he is visiting in Sydney recently.

He said many Australians used the term without realising it had become abusive and offensive. It got on his nerves and might even lead the MCC cricket team now touring Australia.—Reuter.

POSTAGE

1973-1974

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We've been posted abroad before.  
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It's Oman's first main government building, and inaugurates a programme of planned expansion for the Omani people.

But all we had to start with was a piece of land, and little local material available. So we had to start from scratch, shipping much of the building materials over from this country.

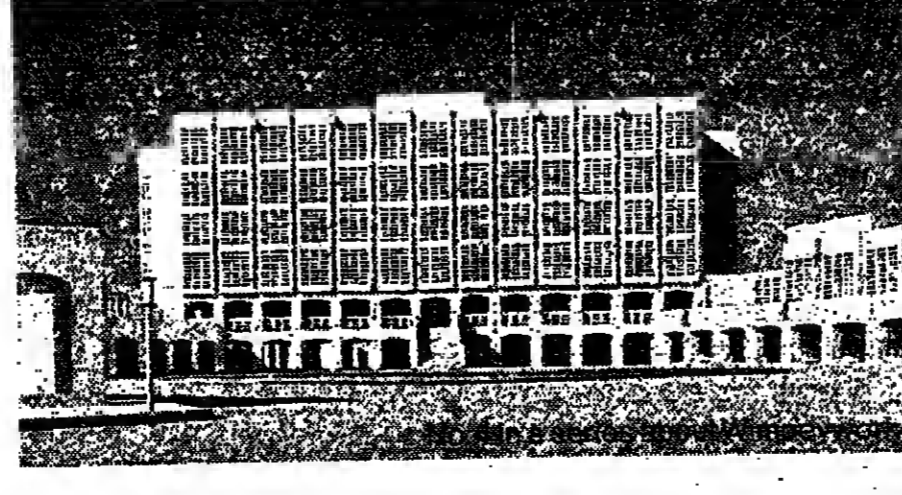
To commemorate the official opening, the Sultan bestowed this special honour: his stamp of approval.

And that's just one example of Wimpey flexibility.

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مكثا من الأصل







ENTERTAINMENTS

Opera and Ballet: Covent Garden, Royal Opera House, London. The Marriage of Figaro. 7.30, 9.30. Tickets £10.00.

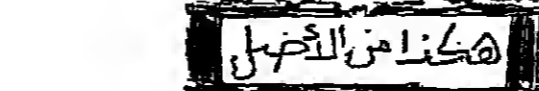
Theatre: Phoenix, 27, 28 & 29 Nov. Evening. The Marriage of Figaro. 7.30, 9.30. Tickets £10.00.

Exhibitions: Highland Home Industries. 10-12 Nov. 10-12 noon. Tickets £1.00.

The Arts: Roland Culver and Gerald James. Week-end television. Harry Lifters. Leonard Buckley.

Books: Mature new work by young choreographer. The Calm. Sadler's Wells. John Percival. Feminine creation. Three Degrees. Philip Norman. Dad's Army. Stanley Reynolds. Heirs to the High Stewards. Mary Cosh.

Advertisement for Bryan Forbes' 'Notes for a Life' featuring a portrait of the author and promotional text.





كندا من الأصل



## A Volvo never had looks like this before.

No, sir.  
 In days gone by the ladies wouldn't give us a look in that Volvos were not for them.  
 Somehow or other, they'd got it into their heads that Volvos were not for them.  
 'A man's car,' feminists muttered.  
 'Big and safe and reliable and hard-wearing. Nobody looks at you in a Volvo'.  
 While this view wasn't quite fair, there was enough truth in it to sting us into action.  
 We present one of the results of our labours.  
 The new Volvo 244. Part of our first new series of cars for nearly nine years.  
 An event in itself.  
 And, we think, a turning point in our rather long, unsuccessful suit with women.  
 For a start, you'll undoubtedly get winked at in a 244.  
 The only problem may be that the young man in the sports car will choose to look at the car's body.  
 He may wind down the window and ask a few questions.  
 It'll be as well to humour him.  
 Knowing how men like technical banter, here are

a few things you should know.  
 The long, lean front isn't just there for the looks. Oh dear me, no.  
 It's made so as to cushion the blow should you make the chance acquaintance with a brick wall at 50 miles an hour.  
 The seats, now.  
 The cushion and backrest, inform him firmly, incorporate a network of metal wires tensioned by coil springs. The kind of comfort you've been aching for.  
 The whole driver's seat can be moved, not only forward and back, but also up and down.  
 Useful if both a 6ft husband and a 5ft wife drive the car.  
 Oh, and there's a rather charming quartz clock that you could put Big Ben right by.  
 Being a man, he'll want to know about the engine. It's new, I believe, you should say in a throwaway manner. Rather bigger than before.  
 Very smart off the mark, you might add, wondering whether to put him through his paces.  
 But then, of course, it has got an aluminium head and an overhead camshaft.

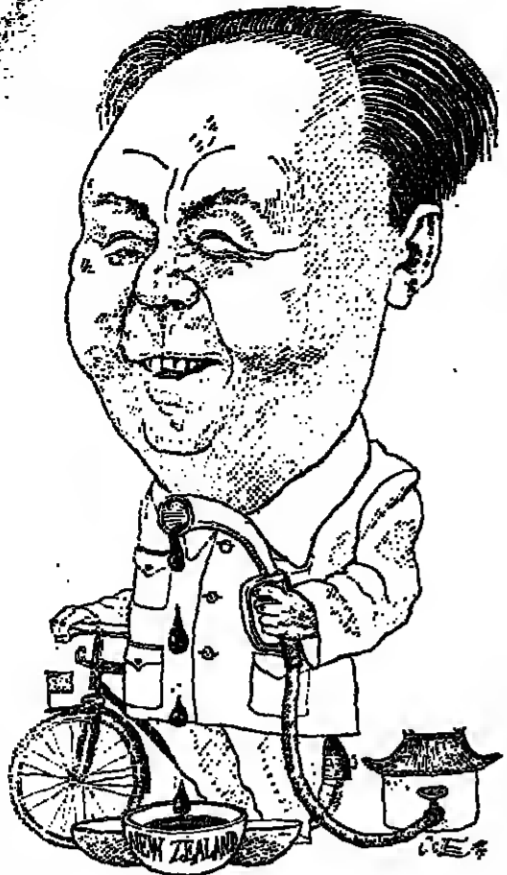
So quiet, and the torque's as marvellous as ever. He'll know what you mean.  
 To floor him totally, all you have to do is drop in a line about the cross-flow cylinder head making for better scavenging.  
 He'll be a slave for life after that.  
 If he's still asking for more, tell him all about the handling.  
 How, what with the new spring struts, the anti-roll member and the lower centre of gravity, it corners like a dream.  
 And rack and pinion steering is so effortless, you know.  
 Having said that, slip the ignition key into the snug new lock (the engine will fire first time with its new powerful starter) and pull away with arrogant ease.  
 Here is a suggestion of an exit line.  
 Look witheringly at his lowly vehicle and ask him if he hasn't ever hankered after something as reliable as a Volvo.

It should be the coup de grâce.  
**The new Volvo 244.**

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Where China has to compromise over 'self-reliance'



A mediocre car costing more than £4,000, and an offer of oil for New Zealand, are the opposite ends of China's strange economic dilemma. The country is just reaching the point where the policy of 'self-reliance' in industry and technology is likely to prove drastically less effective than it has done in agriculture.

There are many indications just now that economic policy is being strongly debated, as the country prepares for the fourth National Peoples' Congress and the last year of the current five-year plan. Increased emphasis, in films, stage plays and the public media, on the policy of technological self-reliance suggests that it is still meeting a good deal of resistance. 'Self-reliance' has always been a question of degree rather than of definition, since China invented gunpowder and the wheel and used it to dismember her. The ideas of Chairman Mao Tse-tung by no means rule out imports of foreign knowledge—indeed they encourage them. But the slogan itself, and the nationalistic feelings it can arouse when abused, have led China's industrial development up a number of one-way streets in the past.

'Self-reliance' seems to be a splendid means of developing agriculture in poor countries and guaranteeing a livelihood for millions of peasants. But it is probably unworkable under the political system under which it is implemented in China.

In industry and technology the virtues of 'self-reliance' are largely born of necessity and are questioned by many knowledgeable western industrialists and businessmen. When Russia withdrew its technicians in 1960 the Chinese simply had to find their own way of developing steel and other industries and even building nuclear missiles. But recent experience has shown that the policy is much less useful when applied to more simple things.

Foreigners in China, though

isolated in their own special world, come into contact with the consequences of 'self-reliance' in a number of disconcerting ways.

For instance they may pay £50 for a vacuum cleaner which needs its motor replaced after a month or two. And many have had the painful experience of ruining their imported air conditioners by installing them in the wall apertures which the Chinese misguidedly built in the new blocks of flats for diplomats. The Chinese could have avoided such errors by showing a little more willingness to learn from foreign experience and not just imitating gimmicks.

Sbaoghal continues to turn out a saloon car whose technical level is about equivalent to that of 1940 in America and which costs between £4,000 and £5,000. Meanwhile the streets of Peking are buzzing with modern taxis which China said to have imported from Japan for about a tenth of that price each.

Nor is the policy consistently applied. A number of Australian businessmen left Peking in a huff recently after their country's trade exhibition here. They felt the Chinese invited them to show their products just in order to copy the processes and techniques without any intention of placing orders. Ironically, China may be able to avoid facing up to the problem squarely because of the boom in oil—an industry in which she is almost entirely self-reliant, and strongly resists foreign participation. New Zealand has received an offer of small amounts of Chinese oil in the future, thus joining the club at present consisting of Japan, Hongkong and the Philippines. Transport may be a problem: millions of pounds are wasted annually on delays affecting chartered ships because Shanghai and other ports simply cannot handle the volume of cargo efficiently. But in future China may be able to import nearly all the foreign technology she needs through oil revenues, while continuing to proclaim a policy of self-reliance. And in a sense it will be true.

David Bonavia

The tragedy and the conflict behind the war's last secret How thousands of Russians went home to their dea

"The last secret of the Second World War" as Alexander Solzhenitsyn described it, was Britain's and the United States' delivery to the Soviet authorities of between 2,000,000 and 4,000,000 Soviet citizens, displaced persons from German prisoner-of-war camps and labour units as well as others who had willingly changed sides during the war. Virtually all of these millions, whether they had betrayed the Soviet Union or not, were sent to the labour camps of Siberia where they frayed and starved to death in buga numbers. Now that the relevant documents are available one can see that this decision, one of the most life-destroying of recent history, was taken only after an unusual and highly emotional conflict between various British officials and senior ministers.

Russians began falling into Allied hands after the D-Day landings of June 6, 1944. In the early days about 10 per cent of men captured in German uniforms were Soviet citizens, most of them already pressed and hurried into service on the Atlantic Wall. They were shipped to Britain, where they were naturally seen as a thorough nuisance and a possible threat to the British war effort.

On July 17 the Cabinet agreed in principle to hand them all over to the Soviet authorities as soon as shipping could be arranged. There the matter might have rested, had it not been taken up by most energetically by Lord Selborne, the minister responsible for the famous espionage and sabotage team known as Special Operations Executive. On July 21 he addressed a most moving letter to Anthony Eden, the Foreign Secretary, and was profoundly moved by the decision of the Cabinet to send back to Russia all Russian subjects who fall into our hands on the battlefields of Europe. I propose to address the Prime Minister on this subject, but before doing so would like you to know the grounds of my opposition, in the hope that we may find ourselves in agreement in this matter.

"As you may know, one of my officers has during the past few weeks interviewed a number of Russian prisoners, and in every case their story is substantially the same. In the first place they are subject to in-credible hardship and treatment on being taken prisoner. They were marched in many cases for several days without any food. They were placed in concentration camps under appalling sanitary conditions and were starved. They became infested with vermin, they were the victims of loathsome diseases and starvation was carried to such a point that cannibalism became prevalent. In more than one instance the Germans filmed cannibalistic meals for propaganda purposes.

After several weeks of this treatment and when their morale was completely broken, they were paraded and addressed by a German officer, who invited them to join the German labour battalion in which they would receive proper clothes, rations and treatment. They were then asked individually if they would accept this offer or not. The first man whom I asked replied 'no'. He was immediately shot. The same thing happened to the second and to the third and so on until at last one man said he would, and then the others also agreed, as I have already said, as the only way of saving their lives."

The SOE officer mentioned in Selborne's letter was Major L. H. Manderstam, who had been born in Riga, the capital of Latvia, and travelled widely in Russia before coming to live in England as a prisoner. Manderstam how after only a few days in the labour battalion they were given rifles and simply told they were in the German army. Their only hope was to fight furiously on the front lines and then to be taken prisoner by the Americans or British hands which would be handed over to the Soviet Union and shot. But while some accepted this story and fought hard, others believed that the western allies would give them asylum and that the first chance of surrendering.

Some of the more thoughtful prisoners gave another reason why their return to Russia was unthinkable: "Should we return we would be an embarrassment to our government. We were told that in Russia the

lot of workers was better than in any country in the world. Since we have been taken prisoner we know there is a higher standard of life in France, in Belgium, in Norway, for the workers than in Russia... Stalin would never be able to have us back... Our lives might be spared but the stigma of traitor attached to us would never be removed.

Selborne suggested that it might be possible to face Soviet Russia. He had spoken to Free French leaders who thought a place might be found for them in Madagascar or other underpopulated colonies. Once they were sure that they would not be sent back to face the Soviet Union they would desert to the Maquis by the thousand. Any such idea was preferable to a policy of forcible repatriation which, when it became known, would cause a great outcry in this country as well as in America. And as for the moral aspect of the problem, Selborne's position was a firm one: "The prospect of sending back many thousands of men to die, either by execution or in Siberia, must be repellent to every Englishman."

As soon as Eden received this letter he scribbled a note to his officials in the Foreign Office: "What do you say to all this? It doesn't deal with the point, if these men don't go back to Russia, where are they to go? We don't want them here." He seemed to be hinting that Selborne's arguments were

unsound and that some way must be found to avoid the inconvenience of having to house and feed large numbers of Russians who were unwilling to go home.

The Foreign Office duly began analysing Selborne's letter, and subjecting it to criticism. The evidence showed, they claimed, that many of the prisoners were begging to be put in touch with Soviet representatives and returned to the motherland. This was true as far as it went. Many of them were indeed loyal. But almost of these, once home, paid for their loyalty with terms in the camps. But others were openly opposed to Stalin's regime, and others still were protesting their loyalty only because they thought they would probably be sent home anyway and wanted to redeem themselves in their authorities' eyes.

Manderstam went to see Christopher Warner, the official then responsible for the Soviet desk in the Foreign Office, and some angry scene ensued in which the two men argued about the truth of the facts in Selborne's letter. In the end Warner ordered Manderstam out of his office and made an official complaint about him which SOE rejected. He then wrote a scathing memorandum: "I know the SOE officer who provided the first report and he has been in touch with this department. I doubt whether he is the right person to carry out an objective investigation. He is a Russian-speaking Balt and

does not make the impression of being trained at sifting evidence."

It was one of the tragedies of the war, this hostility between SOE and the Foreign Office, which is described in detail by many senior SOE officers as well as the official SOE historian, Professor Michael Foot. "The Foreign Office disliked us because we were set up outside their control and to rivalry to their own secret service", one leading SOE man has said. Professor Foot writes: "Plenty of trouble for the Foreign Office was caused by SOE activities in various parts of the world, and senior diplomats as a rule regarded the organization with disdain, as an ungentelemanly body it was better to keep clear of."

Warner was certainly wrong, both about the letter and about Manderstam. No one seriously believes now that the Russian prisoners were exaggerating, either about their sufferings in Germany or about the fate that awaited them in Russia. And Manderstam himself led by 1974 succeeded in building up a chemical engineering business worth many millions of pounds, thus proving surely that he was capable of being objective and of sifting evidence. But in 1944 it was not so clear, and more readily believed. Also his minister, Anthony Eden, had far more political influence than Selborne.

Warner did not share Selborne's sympathy for the prisoners. "These men have been serving in the German forces and we have no evidence but their own that this was against their will. I think we should be careful not to become sentimental about them." This advice made its way up the chain of command to Eden, who made his agreement, sending a request for a draft letter to Selborne "to whom I suppose a reply is due."

Meanwhile Selborne had sent the Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, a shortened version of his letter to Eden, and Churchill's initial reaction was sympathetic. "I think we should do this rather summarily at Cabinet and the point raised by (Selborne) should certainly be reconsidered... I think these men were tried beyond their strength."

Eden's final decision was to come over one. There were, large numbers, American prisoners in Eastern Germany. The Red Army quickly towards the end of the war it was probably shortly overran them. Many in return their own native land will reflect with willingness to us our own people.



1943: Mr Eden and Mr Molotov meet in Moscow.

But Eden long letter I have coiside question mo- cently", he b come to the that it was original deci- all the Rus- they wanted by force if n German mil- tary forma- of which id been revol- agreed with cannot afford about this". "We surely permaoatly number of th, continued. To them would ca with the Sov We have no do this add the understand, but we are treas- edly from the ernments on a this would aro suspiciois... of ours wha- allied govern- the Soviet Gov as regard u- nationalis."

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Nichol Copyright Nichol 1974

The author's last Secret, was p October 31 by Ar

The promise and the danger of the new Algeria

The twentieth anniversary of the outbreak of Algeria's revolution against French rule was celebrated on November 1 with particular éclat in Algiers, in the presence of all the Presidents and potentates of Arab and non-aligned countries.

What struck me was that the country at long last seemed to have come to terms with itself. Its past, and with France and the outside world. People were more relaxed and confident, less tense and aggressive than I had known them. Algerians are beginning to view themselves with a little more detachment and objectivity. I was surprised, for instance, to hear a senior official readily admit that the situation in agriculture gave cause for concern.

The reason for this new self-confidence is that in the past few years Algeria has been winning all her gambles one by one. She defied the French oil companies, she won her independence from the French government, and she got full control of her resources two years later. She launched an ambitious second Four-Year Plan this year, which appeared beyond her capacity to carry out. The quadrupling of oil prices came to her aid in the rescue. She has established herself, in terms of economic efficiency and achievement, as the leader of the Arab world.

In the 12 years since independence she has pulled herself up by her bootstraps out of the chaotic conditions created by the mass exodus of French administrators, technicians, teachers and experts. Life is

still very tough for the majority of Algerians. Only one in three is fully employed. The galloping birth rate is one of the highest in the world. But the country is definitely going forward.

President Houari Boumedienne is something of a Cromwellian figure—a "soldier-milk" tough and austere. He is only 47, and had only made his mark as chief of staff of the Algerian liberation forces when he succeeded Mr Ahmed Ben Bella in 1965. With his blend of cautious realism, and indigenous socialism, coupled with a strong sense of Islamic tradition and nationalism, he has consolidated his moral and political position among his own people and far beyond the circle of non-aligned countries in the past nine years. He has come to be regarded in western capitals as an element of stability in a shifting Arab landscape.

Since the revolt of Colonel Zbiri in 1967, his authority has been unchallenged, save for occasional outbreaks of robbing and grumbling among students and intellectuals. All leaders of the revolution who might challenge his position are either dead or in exile. Mr Raba Bitat, now a minister of state, is the only survivor of the six so-called 'Sons of All Saints Day' who led the revolt of 1954. There is no organized opposition in the country worthy of the name. The students, the trade unions, the peasants are quiescent. The population is politically apathetic. The only real power is

in the hands of the army and the political security services. If President Boumedienne maintains his position, it is because they are on his side.

His election to the chairmanship of the Conference of Non-aligned Countries last year, and that of Mr Abdel Azaz Bouteflika to the Presidency of the United Nations General Assembly this year, has given Algeria power and influence in world councils out of all proportion to her economic weight or position in the Arab world. She has used it repeatedly to support what she calls "just causes" like the creation of a Palestine state and, more recently, to propose an informal summit of oil producers which will probably take place in Algiers before the end of the year. Always in the van of the opposition to any limitation of oil prices and production—she needs all the revenue from her oil and gas to finance her ambitious economic plans—she intends to propose a stabilization of oil prices at the present level, indexed to that of imported raw materials and capital goods.

In fact, the second four-year economic plan is based on calculations that the price of oil will remain stable between now and 1978, and will go up only to the extent the cost of imports rises. What the increase in oil prices since October 1973 has meant for Algeria is clear from the fact that whereas the first plan was financed to the tune of only 30 per cent by oil, the second will be covered to the tune of 90 per cent by

oil exports—excluding natural gas, of which Algeria will become the world's greatest exporter by 1980.

This sudden affluence, however, will not mean an immediate improvement in the lot of the 14,500,000 Algerians, nearly 50 per cent of whom are under 15, and three quarters of whom live on the land. The new economic plan maintains the same objective of first and foremost industrialization as the first, with a slightly greater emphasis on housing and education. But agriculture remains a poor cousin with 14 per cent of total investment. It is the Algeria of tomorrow which President Boumedienne is building up at breakneck speed. The older generation, which 20 years ago was called upon to die for national independence, must now sacrifice itself to economic independence. The one cannot be secured without the other, in his view. His proud boast is that by 1982, his country will have emerged from underdevelopment as an industrialized country, capable of coping with a population three times as great as the present one.

There is no place in this scheme of things for self-indulgence. Consumption, in the eyes of Mr Boumedienne, the energetic Minister for Economic Affairs, is a very secondary consideration, and the shop windows of the capital have that same drab appearance one found in East Germany 10 years ago. But the reason, President Boumedienne insists, is having his way. He also feels that the party, the

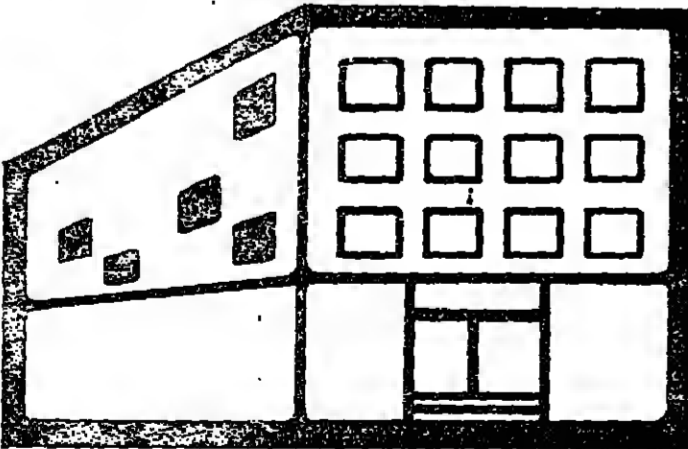
national Libera should be playing in the new adv- cialism. But a missal of a Mr Ka December 1972, it had no responsi-

As I watched it, he paraded on N on the broad av- out from Algiers t in which a seri- vaunted the ach- the new Algeria's from independen- democratic educ- agrarian revolution, tion of national and the "contin- tion"—"I was stru- great youthfulness country. This is t and, in a sense, the the Algeria of our has embarked on mental race against

Will this young A as readily to aut discipline as the which went through will be increasing coming out of school- 3,000,000 being edu- year—be as ready elders to accept un- and underemploy- cause of economic- dence? The future e rests upon the shoul- man more who has successor to appear- him there is a dang- tical vacuum. Alger- going concern econ- its political stabil- question mark.

Charles H

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The Times Diary

Five elephants an hour a bit slow

Karl, one of the Germans in our group, was first to make the obvious joke when he said "I think the only elephants we shall see tomorrow will be pink ones." Then he added generally: "You can see that in your columnar document work in German. There we talk about seeing white mice."

The train arrived exactly on schedule at 6 am and the authorities had begun to wake us 90 minutes before that, so it was a rather delicate group of observers who arrived at the round-up site at 7.30. That was when the event was launched with a series of brightly coloured daytime fireworks, whose special trick was to re-veal the animals attached to miniature parachutes which floated across the field.

For those whose first round-up this was, there were hints on the programme about how to behave. "Please don't go too close to the elephants," it advised, and added: "Also, please refrain from pulling the hair from the elephant's tail." That is one of those injunctions barring you from doing something you would never have thought of doing in the first place, which tends to encourage you to do it, just to see what happens. But in this case we all showed great restraint. The elephants are not professional entertainers. They are still used to haul huge teak logs in the plantations of Thailand. There was a demonstration of that and then we saw a number of elephant races, in which the

trying it on with my new black velvet jacket, which should set people talking equally.

The return journey was more grudging than that on the way out. We boarded the train at three in the afternoon and reached Bangkok shortly before midnight. Karl, the German, had the last word again. "We have been away for nearly 30 hours", he said, "and we have seen 150 elephants. That makes five elephants an hour."

Today we are off to Chiang Mai in the north—by air this time. I shall tell you about that when we get back.

**Noted jokes**

During his 27 years with the Press Association, John Morecroft led a double life. By day he was chief of the association's Old Bailey reporting staff and by night he was their chief diner-out. "They knew they could always count on me to cover a dinner—I'd do about two a week—because the Old Bailey usually rises at five and after that was free."

At City diners he always wore white tie and tails—his own—yet they now hang in a wardrobe at his Dover home. "There is not much use of them here and I don't dress for dinner", he says.

**HELL GODS - EXPEDITION**

Today's sign indicates the freight office at Hell, north of Trondheim, Norway. The Reverend George Austin, in sending the picture, reports that when you get there Hell is a very dull place.

**Looking up**

Britain's nine new students in Peking are benefiting from better conditions fought for by their predecessors in the academic year which ended last summer. The students—including three girls—have access to a library at their institute, an issue which provoked a row between the authorities and British students who lived there last year. They have also been offered the chance to room with Chinese students, a privilege which was not even suggested to the others.

The new British language students are from Leeds, Cambridge and other universities. Their interests range from scientific development to the administration of the Ching dynasty, but they seem united in their enthusiasm for the experience of living at least a year in Peking. Two girl students who went through last year have been allowed to take up residence for a further academic year in Shanghai and the exchange programme is generally looking up. "But the Chinese

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SPORT

Cricket

MCC build a winning position with one day to play

From John Woodcock Cricket Correspondent Sydney, Nov 17

After two days in which they have played their best cricket...

he a good two yards faster than he was then...

The were some useful runs from Underwood as well...



Greig: getting on terms with those who inhabit the Hill.

first time in the match. He had only one over today at his faster pace...

The prime example of this was when they put on 254 in Bombay...

Tennis

Connors expects to meet Rosewall

By Rex Bellamy Tennis Correspondent

fortune to be trapped into an association with the French and Italian ban on Connors...

He was a happy coincidence that, on the Rixford 25th wedding anniversary...

Golf

Jacklin pleased with his performance

Johannesburg, Nov 15.—The former British and United States Open champion, Tony Jacklin...

Racing

Interview should improve record at expense of Straight Vulgan

By Jim Snow Northern Racing Correspondent

By runner-up to French Pipe on his last appearance...

Stephenson: horses well forward for start of season.

French racing

Iamblichus gains victory with late run

Paris, Nov 17.—The American horse, Iamblichus, owned by George Ostrander...

Show jumping

Broome to join British team in Berlin

David Broome visits the Berlin from Toronto to Britain to the West German international show jumping...

Racing's only salvation was for all sections to get together...

Camden, South Carolina, Nov 17.—The Colonial Cup steeplechase was won by an outsider...

bookmaker's business audited by an independent chartered accountant...

Leicester programme

- 1.0 STOUGHTON HURDLE (Div I; Novice; £204; 2m) 023-121 Moonstone (D) Mrs F Davidson, S. Naylor...

Ayr programme

- 1.15 GATEHEAD HURDLE (Div I; Novice; £204; 2m) 000-000 Bander Arnie (D) W. G. Richards, S. Naylor...

Real tennis

Ronaldson gains confidence and then control

By Our Real Tennis Correspondent

Hockey

Chichester rely on Thrift but Bromley profit

By Sydney Friskin Bromley 3 Chichester 1

Oosterhuis top of the class in PGA school

Napa, California, Nov 17.—Peter Oosterhuis is now the leader after four rounds of the PGA qualifying school here.

Tennis

Leicester selections

Our Northern Racing Correspondent

Wetherby results

1.0: 1. The audience (11-12): 2. The audience (11-12): 3. The audience (11-12):

Warwick results

1.0: 1. The audience (11-12): 2. The audience (11-12): 3. The audience (11-12):

Leicester selections

Our Northern Racing Correspondent

Wetherby results

1.0: 1. The audience (11-12): 2. The audience (11-12): 3. The audience (11-12):



THE TIMES BUSINESS NEWS

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AING tomorrow's BUILDING CIVIL ENGINEERING

BSC stresses need for 'sizable' price rises despite half-year profit of £82m

With investment in new capacity and said that the recently completed Anchor project at Scunthorpe had accounted for 19 per cent of steel produced in the first half of this year and had contributed 42 per cent towards profits. On the capital investment programme we cannot afford delay because other people throughout the world are building new steelworks. Steel is a growth industry, he declared. Apart from the need to lift prices and press ahead with new investment the BSC is seriously concerned at the impact of industrial disputes on production which constrained output at a time when demand was buoyant. The BSC planned to produce 11.1 million tonnes of steel in the first half year, but instead managed only 10.2 million tonnes. About 500,000 tonnes of the loss is ascribed to the state of disputes which have plagued production at major plants, exacerbated by shortages of coal and scrap and operational difficulties. The corporation's poor industrial relations record is undermining its ability to secure export contracts for the first quarter of next year since potential customers are openly sceptical of the BSC's ability to meet delivery dates. Dr. Fimiston has said in the past that a new approach to production machinery is necessary in the state steel undertaking to improve communications between management and men. Lower Japanese output likely: Japan's steel production in the year ending next March is likely to total 115 million tonnes, against 120 million last year, the Japan Iron and Steel Federation estimated. The federation said the decline would result from a shortage of steel-making coal and a slowdown in domestic demand in the second half of the year. -Reuter.



Mr. Gordon Richardson: Talks arranged at IMF meeting.

Bank denial over aim of Kuwait visit

The Bank of England moved quickly yesterday to squish any suggestion that the visit of Mr. Gordon Richardson, the Governor, to Kuwait this weekend was the result of the announcement in last Tuesday's Budget that the sterling guarantee created by the terms of the sterling guarantee to overseas holders were to be allowed to lapse from the end of the year. A spokesman for the Bank said that any idea that Mr. Richardson had to go to Kuwait after Mr. Healey's announcement was simply not true. The visit was basically for informal discussions with bank and government officials in Kuwait, and had been arranged at the annual IMF meeting in Washington. Although the recycling of Middle Eastern oil funds into sterling will inevitably be one topic of discussion, it seems almost certain that the decision to allow the present sterling guarantee to lapse is not a point of particular contention. The oil-producing states are believed to have been soured on their reaction to such a decision before it was announced and are not thought to have raised any objection. Under the terms of the guarantee, parties to the agreement are safeguarded against any fall in the value of their sterling holdings beyond prescribed limits. The current agreement guarantees the value of sterling holdings against any depreciation in sterling against the world's other major currencies of more than an average of 18.35 per cent in the period from April 1 to December 31.

Ratification terms putting pressure on Tunnel Bill

By Business News Staff With the French likely to ratify the Channel Tunnel treaty this week, pressures are growing on the British Government to complete the parliamentary stages of their Channel Tunnel Bill by the end of this session, otherwise considerable financial penalties will have to be faced because of the abandonment, at least in contractual terms, of the project. The two governments' agreement with the companies building the tunnel is that the treaty, already signed, should be ratified by January 1 or the project will be deemed abandoned. With the companies now anxiously waiting for the results of their own reassessment of increased costs, it might not be easy now to renegotiate the January date. The considerable parliamentary opposition to the Bill which emerged in last week's debate throws more doubt on the Government's ability to get the Bill through all stages, which is likely to include a vote in the House of Lords. If the January 1 date were overstepped the tunnel companies would be faced with the problem of whether to sue for the abandonment guarantees which are their legal right in favour of taking a chance on the Government's ability to get the legislation through some time. Another problem which could arise if there were renegotiation of any kind, is whether the companies might call for a specifically higher figure to be nominated in the Bill covering the government guarantee to the tunnel companies. The company has been raising at least 90 per cent of its development cash in the open market and the Government guarantees the loans. The companies' own financial statements due to be checked subsequently by the government watchdog committee headed by Sir Alec Cairncross are almost certain to push the estimated cost beyond the £346m. An additional, although subsidiary, forecast cost of £100m has been put forward by the company taking the 1980 outturn bill to £700m. If timing of the tunnel were put back, or slowed in any way, inflation continuing at current rates would be bound to raise the cost of the tunnel. The company could be expected to want extended protection work under the present preparatory phase two of the tunnel excavations has been going well on the British side of the Channel near Dover, and is expected to come within target costings. Access tunnels have been completed on schedule and the giant boring machine which will slice out two kilometres of the main tunnel under the sea is now being assembled.

Money supply growth accelerates but basic trend remains unclear

By Christopher Wilkins Both definitions of the money supply accelerated during the month to the middle of October compared to the previous month, but the underlying growth trend remains unclear. During July and August the money supply was expanding rapidly only to slow to an increase of 1 per cent during September in both the narrowly defined sense (M1) and the more broadly defined one (M2). October saw a resumption of the earlier trend, with M1 rising by a relatively rapid 1 1/2 per cent because of a substantial increase in private sector current account deposits and a small rise in the note circulation. Private sector deposit accounts declined, however, so that the growth in M2 was a more modest 1 per cent—albeit greater than in September. But although October itself saw an upsurge, the three-month rolling average shows an M3 increase of only 7 per cent, the lowest rise since June when the money supply was under the most severe constraint. Taking that figure as a guideline would suggest that the Bank of England is reasonably well on target towards its stated objective of keeping the money supply growth fairly small. The relatively slow increase in the growth of M3 is chiefly explained by an unusually small central government borrowing requirement. Holders of sterling outside the banking system, both overseas and domestic, also increased their holdings of Treasury bills, so that, for the first time since June, the banks' and discount houses' holdings of government debt declined. Within that total the London Clearing Bank group were rather higher at 8 1/2 per cent. On the other hand, the Bank points out, lending by banks to the private sector accelerated during October to show a seasonal increase of £410m. But that was below the increases of April, June and July, and would have been lower except for a further reduction in official holdings of commercial bills. Offsetting the increase in lending to the private sector was a sharp decline in lending to the public sector. Overall assets and liabilities rose by only £96m. The banks continued to remain within the limits imposed by the supplementary special deposit system, the so-called deposit "corset". Against a ceiling of 14 per cent in the growth of their four-year bearing liabilities, their actual increase was 6 1/2 per cent. Within that total the London Clearing Bank group were rather higher at 8 1/2 per cent. The meeting of the TUC General Council on Wednesday morning is bound to colour the thinking of CBI council members as they make their decision. The union leaders will debate a TUC economic committee discussion document which offers scope for more scrupulous observance of the social contract negotiating advice. The most likely outcome of the CBI meeting is that the employment policy committee will be asked to go ahead with a more detailed exercise in drawing up guidelines while keeping a watching brief on the TUC. Industrialists are keenly aware of the political difficulties inherent in the exercise, since the existence of an alternative series of guidelines alongside those of the TUC could well produce a divisive mood rather than the cooperative relationship which the CBI claims it would like to see. It may be, however, that by pressing ahead with its independent exercise the CBI hopes to manoeuvre the TUC into some form of compromise solution.

MONEY SUPPLY

The following are the figures released today for the monthly amount of the money stock, seasonally adjusted, at the mid-month make-up date:

Table with columns for Year, Month, M1, M2, M3, and Percentage change over 3 months at an annual rate.

seasonal increase of £410m. But that was below the increases of April, June and July, and would have been lower except for a further reduction in official holdings of commercial bills. Offsetting the increase in lending to the private sector was a sharp decline in lending to the public sector. Overall assets and liabilities rose by only £96m. The banks continued to remain within the limits imposed by the supplementary special deposit system, the so-called deposit "corset". Against a ceiling of 14 per cent in the growth of their four-year bearing liabilities, their actual increase was 6 1/2 per cent. Within that total the London Clearing Bank group were rather higher at 8 1/2 per cent.

Mercedes names UK lump truck agent

Clifford Webb, head of Ferryhill, Coventry, Dely and Widnes. Ward is itself a considerable user of this type of equipment in its plant and civil engineering operations. Mercedes has thus acquired a customer and a seller at the same time in a sector of the commercial vehicle market which is reckoned to be the most difficult of all. Hans Tauscher, manager of Mercedes-Benz UK (now a wholly owned subsidiary of Europe's largest commercial vehicle manufacturer), said last night: "Off-road vehicles are mainly unregistered and this poses difficult servicing problems. We chose Ward because they have an excellent reputation for on-site service with vehicles operating from strategically placed local depots, most of which are close to motorways."

Sugar gap boost for substitutes

By David Young An unprecedented increase in the sales of sugar substitutes, created by the sugar shortage, has led several companies to switch to 24-hour production of them. In Britain substitutes are no longer being bought solely as diet aids and in the United States the companies involved have announced expansion plans. Before the sugar shortage the United Kingdom market was estimated to be worth £5m, with £500,000 being spent on press and television advertising aimed at the slimming market. Sales are now estimated to have trebled. The three main "sugar type" sweeteners on the British market, Sucron, "Slimcase" Sugar and Sweet 'n' Low, contain pure sugar—98 per cent in the case of Slimcase Sugar—with saccharin added to increase sweetening power. A half spoonful of these products is normally equal to a spoonful of sugar, and costs are comparable. In the market for "table-top sweeteners", saccharin tablets, Boots' Sweetest brand has the major share. A spokesman for Boots said the demand had risen dramatically over the past weeks, but despite this there were no supply problems.

CBI likely to continue pay guide exercise

By Malcolm Brown Industrialists will be asked by the Confederation of British Industry on Wednesday whether the CBI should go ahead with plans to draw up independent guidelines on pay. The issue will be one of the main items on the agenda of the CBI's grand council. Business leaders have made it clear that they have little faith in the wage restraint guidelines of the social contract. One of the confederation's top bodies, the employment policy committee, has already been doing preliminary groundwork for CBI guidelines for several weeks. The meeting of the TUC General Council on Wednesday morning is bound to colour the thinking of CBI council members as they make their decision. The union leaders will debate a TUC economic committee discussion document which offers scope for more scrupulous observance of the social contract negotiating advice. The most likely outcome of the CBI meeting is that the employment policy committee will be asked to go ahead with a more detailed exercise in drawing up guidelines while keeping a watching brief on the TUC. Industrialists are keenly aware of the political difficulties inherent in the exercise, since the existence of an alternative series of guidelines alongside those of the TUC could well produce a divisive mood rather than the cooperative relationship which the CBI claims it would like to see. It may be, however, that by pressing ahead with its independent exercise the CBI hopes to manoeuvre the TUC into some form of compromise solution.

Bahrain refinery scheme shelved

Bahrain, Nov 16.—Plans to add a \$90m (£38.5m) dealkalanation plant to Bahrain Petroleum Company's refinery here have again been suspended, according to today's edition of Gulf Weekly Mirror, quoting reliable sources. Bahrain's refinery is the fourth largest in the Gulf and the new plant would have produced 50,000 barrels a day of lead-free oil for the Japanese market. The plan was first put forward 18 months ago but was shelved during the energy crisis. Rising oil and labour costs are understood to have made the project uneconomic and to have led to a postponement of a year is expected.

ZAMBIA COPPER INVESTMENTS LIMITED (Incorporated in Bermuda) PROPOSALS FOR THE REORGANISATION OF NCHANGA CONSOLIDATED COPPER MINES LIMITED (INCORPORATED IN ZAMBIA) At a Special General Meeting of members of the company held in Bermuda on the 14th November, 1974, the resolution authorising the directors to make such alterations as may be required for the adoption by Nchanga of new Articles of Association so as to enable that company to give effect to the arrangements described in the circular to members containing the notice which accompanied the meeting was passed without modification. A poll was taken and the result was as follows:

Chrysler closing US assembly plants for month

Detroit, Nov. 16.—Chrysler Corp. will shut its United States car assembly plants and some manufacturing facilities for that month of December, sources in the automobile industry said. Chrysler would neither confirm nor deny the report, but an industry insider said the company had ordered no parts from suppliers for next week, which suggests that many component plant workers are likely to be laid off along with assemblers. About 100,000 production workers are employed by Chrysler. More than one-third are assembling cars. The entire system were to shut down an estimated 113,000 workers would be idle. Plants normally shut between Christmas and New Year's Day and workers are paid for that period. But workers' union sources said the men would not be paid if laid off. The savings to Chrysler would be \$20m (about \$9m) on that score alone. For the most part, the new agreements are unchanged from 1974. But small reductions in capacity are planned during the winter season in the New York-San Francisco and Chicago-San Francisco markets.

Cambridge don criticizes Budget 'error'

Mr Wynne Godley, director of the department of applied economics, University of Cambridge, in a paper commissioned and issued by Vickers, de Costa and Co, the City stockbrokers, accuses the Treasury of making an error in calculating the financial balance for current year equivalent to at least 4 per cent of gross domestic product. That is greater, he says, than the change in the financial balance introduced intentionally in any Budget since 1950-51. He is also critical of the "distinctly modest" relief of £800 offered to industry in the Budget to offset the huge expense to the book value of its stocks over the last year. Mr Godley concludes: "In this very complex situation no emphatic conclusions can be drawn about the likely behaviour of the smck market. My view, for what it is worth, is that the collapse in equity prices is the consequence of exaggerated fears about the future. Accordingly, my expectation is that, looking, say, a year ahead, it is more likely than not that there will be a substantial recovery."

2001 Can you wait for it? Most people take out life assurance on a long-term basis. Which is very sensible, because it gives long-term security, and profits. But most policies are not designed to help if you need the money sooner. With Scottish Provident's Selected Period Investment Policy, things are different. You can write the maturity date on the policy after 10 years. So you could collect in 1984. Without losing capital, and with profits. This type of policy is an invention of ours. It's been limited, but never beaten. It means that if you can wait for the 21st century, that's fine. But you won't be penalised if you can't. Ask your broker. Or fill in the coupon.

PICCADILLY THEATRE LTD. Viability of London Theatres The 36th annual general meeting of the Piccadilly Theatre was held on the 13th November, at the Piccadilly Theatre, Denman Street, London. Mr Donald Alderson, Chairman, presided. The trading results for the year ending the 31st December, 1973 have proved to be more than equal in the profits for the year ending the 31st December, 1971. The increase—even taking inflation into account—is substantial if one looks at the poor results for the year ending the 31st December, 1972, but the returns on your investment, even at this level, is still grossly inadequate. With regard to the current year, the results will unfortunately not be as good as last year, but in view of the difficult economic conditions prevailing, you will probably not be too disappointed. As regards the future, the present financial situation of the country has made it very difficult for Producing Managements to obtain finance for anything but small productions and there is very grave risk that in the coming year the larger theatres will find it increasingly difficult to obtain the right kind of production. The industry has taken and is continuing to take every possible step to make the Chancellor of the Exchequer aware of the gravity of the situation and to persuade him to follow in the footsteps of his predecessors, who first exempted the Live Theatre from Entertainment Tax and then S.E.T., by zero-rating the Live Theatre in respect of V.A.T. The proposed redevelopment of Piccadilly Circus has continued to take up an inordinate amount of the time and attention of your Directors. Very powerful influences are at work but we still hope that ultimately we shall be able to persuade the "powers that be" that, in view of the impossibly high costs of new construction, it would be madness to destroy the viability of any one of London's remaining theatres. Our staff take a very personal interest in your Theatre and we are very lucky to be so well served.

Progress on insurance rescue fund

By Margaret Stone Some points of agreement over the proposed rescue fund for failed insurance companies are beginning to emerge from the series of discussions being held between the Department of Trade and all sections of the insurance industry. It now seems clear that the Government is sympathetic in the idea that the fund should be segregated into two, one part financed by the life assurance section covering life office failures, the other being the responsibility of the non-life companies. The other proposal being put forward by the business as a whole, which appears to be gaining ground with the Government, is that rather than paying towards a standing rescue fund, insurance companies should be called on to meet their obligatory contributions to the industry in the event of an insurance company actually running into difficulties. Other aspects of the mechanics of operating and financing a rescue fund are causing more trouble mainly because the insurance business wants a more equitable allocation of costs which runs counter to the Department of Trade's desire to keep the whole operation as simple as possible. Members of the Linked Life Assurance Group who met department officials last week are anxious to secure less onerous requirements for linked-life funds because linked-life funds are self-balancing—that is, the value of the funds moves up and down in-line with changes in the underlying worth of the assets. Such groups, it is contended, are very unlikely to run into trouble. They are also concerned to secure a more equitable treatment for groups which write a large amount of single premium business, arguing that the upper limit of an annual levy of 1 per cent of premium income should be scaled down in respect of single premium business. It is argued that only one-fifth of single premium business income should be included in the total for calculating each company's contribution to the rescue fund. The Life Offices Association, for its part, is anxious that costs should be allocated according to risk. It argues that as some forms of insurance are potentially more vulnerable than others, companies writing that kind of business should pay proportionately more towards the rescue fund. It is also becoming clear that the mechanics of the proposed rescue fund will have to be closely dovetailed with the forthcoming regulations which apply when an insurance company goes into liquidation.

On other pages Business appointments 20 Appointments vacant 6, 26 Financial Editor 21 Financial news 22 Letters 20 Diary 21 Management 20 Share prices 23 Bank Base Rates Table 22 Company Meeting Reports: McLeod Russel & Co 21 The Perak River Hydro-Electric Power Co 21 Piccadilly Theatre 19 'W' Ribbons Holdings 20 Company Notices 20 Unilever NY 20 Zambia Copper Investments 19



Management

£1 a week story of success

Somewhat over six years ago a pound a week bought a lot of commitment from employees of English China Clays, perhaps because that pound a week was more than the unions were demanding at the time, and it demonstrated a lot of commitment from the company's management. That pound a week was a symbol of a significant change in the climate within Cornwall's largest employer. English China Clays was one of three companies telling their story of participation stories to a select audience of 120 managers and union people at last week's meeting of the Industrial Participation Association in London. It will be repeated in January.

Somehow less than perfect. There were 20 engineering grades alone, with a basic rate of £15 16s.10d. for a 40-hour week. About 20 per cent of the employees were working 60 or 70 hours a week for "decent pay" and the rest were subsisting at or near the basic rate. Pay was handed out in deeply resented "pay parades". It was a 168 hour a week industry with no shift premiums, two weeks' holiday, poor sick pay, demarcation issues beginning to raise their ugly heads, and a general climate of mistrust. The negotiating committee that sat down for six 12-hour days in June, 1968, had a huge task. The union negotiators had been sent in by their members to get them the wage of £20 per week somehow, to cut down on the gruelling overtime for the 80 per cent up to a reasonable level of existence. The company negotiators felt it was time for drastic steps to try to improve the working ambience. That was where the crucial pound a week came in. The company surprised the union negotiators by offering £1 a week as a last resort, on the basis of a dramatically different contract with an overtime, higher pay for voluntary shift work, greatly increased benefits, and most important—a two-way commitment to a much more participative working environment. In a four page preamble to that agreement, the two groups made a mutual statement of five basic principles to meet their joint objectives—principles that have taken on a kind of holiness in the ensuing years. The first, and probably most immediately obvious to the workers, was security, which entailed doing away with overtime, piecework, and hourly rates. "People cannot be expected to contribute productive ideas in that climate," Mr Roach said. Management cannot be in control where the only incentive to earn more is to work slower. We wanted no restriction on incentive and we wanted real rewards for efficiency.

Once the principles were worked out and basic security needs filled to a greater extent, the company lived up to its participation commitment. The most visible manifestation of the change during the first year was a 34 per cent improvement in productivity. Mr Dicken and Mr Hollingworth gave the speeches of EEC in 1974 from the union viewpoint, with similar optimism. The number of engineering grades is 5 instead of 26 now; the basic rate for a 40 hour week has gone up to £41.08 (give or take a few pence), with the voluntary shift work at £52.47. Workers have flexible starting hours, no overtime, a £1,000 death grant, decent superannuation and sick pay programmes (with the first three days paid on all occasions), three weeks holiday plus a day at £52.47. The result of the pound a week—and the real commitment behind it—has been a growing climate of cooperation and sharing. In 1971-72, when the company was suffering financial difficulties, workers submitted more than 600 money saving suggestions, and to save 150 skilled men from a drastic drop in pay, there was money shared among the workers, and a real willingness to be retrained and redeployed as necessary, while no pay demands were made. Then in 1973, when the unions were distressed over pay legislation, the management took the Pay Board to court and won special case status that released back pay. Mr Dicken summed up the climate: "When the company was in trouble, we helped; when we were in trouble, the company helped."

A turning off the road towards bankruptcy

Throughout Europe road haulage companies are in trouble, due to trucks laid up for want of work or operating at uneconomic rates. In Britain Mr John Silbermann, vice-chairman of the Road Haulage Association, has warned that many British hauliers face bankruptcy unless they raise prices by over 20 per cent. The truck manufacturers are just as worried as the hauliers. With sales depressed they fear that unless something is done quickly to improve the viability of the road transport industry it will be too weak to reequip when better days return. There is also a less obvious reason for the manufacturers' concern. The bulk of road transport companies are composed of five vehicles or less. Because of their smallness they do not have the purchasing "leverage" of companies owning several hundred vehicles and have to buy their new trucks at higher prices. It is, therefore, not to manufacturers' interests for the haulage industry to concentrate into bigger and bigger fleets which would seem to be the inevitable consequence of the pressures it is experiencing. It is against this depressing background that commercial vehicle manufacturers are using their expertise to improve the running of haulage companies. As Europe's largest manufacturer of medium and heavy trucks, Mercedes-Benz Germany is playing a leading role. Since early 1972 operators of Mercedes vehicles have been able to take advantage of the company's consulting service. Initially it was little more than an advice bureau of the type run by most truck manufacturers. Last year, however, Mercedes introduced a more down-to-earth contribution to operators' profitability in the shape of Fleet Information Systems (FIS). In less than 18 months it has been taken up by operators in Germany, Belgium, France, Austria, Switzerland and South Africa. Today some 200 hauliers are using 3,000 vehicles are using FIS. Mercedes claim that its success is so impressive that they are having to train more staff to enable them to take on applicants. By the end of the year the total fleet will have grown to 5,000 vehicles. FIS is based on a monthly flow of information from

hauliers which is put through Mercedes computers at its Stuttgart headquarters. From the accumulated data company experts advise operators on ways to improve the economic utilization of each vehicle. The secret of Mercedes' success—and it must be pointed out that FIS is still in its infancy and suspect by many hauliers—is in the choice of data. If too much information is required the system becomes unwieldy and can consume more in additional wages than it saves. If too few data are provided then the forthcoming advice is too generalized to cope with the essentially individual problems encountered in road transport. The best test of any new management tool is the first-hand experience of people employing it. Mercedes recently invited the European press to Linz in Austria to question ten heads of transport companies using FIS. They came from Italy and small concerns in Austria, France, Switzerland and Belgium. However, the operators were coy about giving details of cost savings directly attributable to FIS. Despite hours of intense questioning the only figure to emerge was provided by Herr Amoo Müller, the head of a family haulage concern on the outskirts of Vienna. He said FIS had enabled his 350 vehicle fleet to contain an 8 per cent cost reduction and hold its prices for over a year. It was clear by the end of the conference that most of the journalists present thought that it would be at least another year before sufficient statistical evidence was available for them to make a proper assessment of FIS. The Mercedes team present seemed to accept this while pointing out that at a cost of only 10 Deutscher Marks per vehicle per month (less than £2) companies participating were only letting themselves in for minimal expenditure. FIS is not yet available in Britain which is Mercedes' weakest commercial vehicle market. But it is significant that Herr Gerd Hoffmann, managing director of Mercedes Benz UK and until recently head of export sales promotion at Stuttgart, played a key role in the development of FIS. Clifford Webb

IBM's effective way of solving problems

This is a deliberate plan for staff review by which ability and achievement are recognized. It is not the terrifying "career appraisal" described by Mr Owen. This system is being used by an increasing number of companies in order to review the progress of highly skilled personnel. One should note also the existence of the "open door" policy, applied throughout the company, whereby an employee can appeal against management decisions or inconsistencies to a higher level. Also, the "speak up" policy is a communication link to the higher levels of administration, guaranteeing an answer and an effective response to any suggestion scheme. It is a terrible thing when a company has to cut back staff by 14,000, as Mr Owen points out that IBM was forced to do by the 1970 recession, especially when more than half of its employees are graduates who have specialized in that company's work. Nevertheless the company, as a whole, has had a remarkably steady rate of growth over its history, giving more than 100,000 new employees a quarter of a million new employees. The verbs "to flip chart" and "to task force" sound completely alien to the English ear, but they are the result of forward looking personnel policies. Another area of enlightened personnel policy is the appraisal and counselling review scheme. I believe it was George Bernard Shaw who said that England and America are divided by a common language, and I cannot better that. The nouns "flip-chart" and "task-force" remain because they stand for valuable new concepts in management. The reference to the advert for an IBM song book was amusing but should not be left unqualified. Ted Wynors' wife was merely referring to the songs published in the 1930s and 1940s by the sales-oriented company leaders. These books are great curios and three of their songs are published in William Rodgers's book "Think". The entertainment value of them is tremendous but, sadly, most vanished in a fit of self-consciousness when IBM entered the brand-new world of computers in the 1950s, leaving the world of cash registers and beca slicers and advancing towards the "speed of light". IBM is extraordinary. It personifies the management doctrines taught in the best business schools in the United States and Europe. It thrives in five years to \$2,946.5m, paying \$1,317m to United States and foreign taxes). Traditionalists may scoff, but can they do better? Yours faithfully, MICHAEL L. ROBEY, 8 Greenzate, Greenford, Middlesex, November 13.

Now an extra bill for the privilege of being a self-employed person

From Mr Richard Need Sir, Now that the subject of self-employed national insurance contributions has been raised in the House perhaps you will allow it to move sideways from your Business pages, particularly in view of the appalling prejudice or ignorance shown by some Labour MPs. No doubt there are abuses of the Schedule D tax system, but to counter these by penalizing every self-employed person on a par with making every employed worker responsible for the few miscreants who live on security rather than their own hands. Many people are self-employed because their particular trades or professions offer no alternative. As a result, it's not fair enough—they have no company pension schemes, no gold or overtime, no redundancy pay, no subsidized canteens, no luncheon vouchers, no incentive to strike, no threshold agreements to bolster them against inflation and no useful trade unions to dilute a national blackmail on their behalf. They have a built-in "productivity scheme" whereby their incomes are geared to their rate of work, a scheme which is administered by nature with a ruthlessness which would horrify the average trade union leader. Their one privilege is a fierce independence by which they stand and fall by their own successes and mistakes. Yours faithfully, RICHARD NEED, 40B Strawberry Hill Road, Twickenham, Middlesex.

Three door Mini—why not here?

From Mr Ivor Hall Sir, The article in your issue of October 22 on the three-door British Leyland Mini being produced in Italy, and my subsequent visit to the Motor Show, prompts me to record my dismay that British Leyland are not producing this new version of the Mini in this country. This would appear to be a golden opportunity for British Leyland to update the Mini and to fight the considerable competition from the continent for the three-door Mini market. One was very aware, looking round the Motor Show, that nearly every overseas manufacturer was producing such a vehicle. Surely the decision-makers at British Leyland must be aware of this competition. If they are not, they are not doing their job; if they are, I believe they are losing out on a very important part of the market. The rear door is a great convenience for loading and unloading luggage and shopping, and at the moment I am looking at the Volkswagen Golf and the Renault 5L as possible replacements for my wife's present Mini. If the model illustrated in The Times had been available in the United Kingdom, I would have looked Yours faithfully, IVOR HALL, The Studio, 13 Highgate High St, London N.6 Oct 24.

Piece of string, a hammer and a nail

From Mr C. F. Fratten Sir, A Professor of Economics used to deliver lectures on inflation by describing the experience of a German ironmonger who inherited his business from his father. The father instructed the son to add a fixed mark-up to his purchases to fix selling prices. The unfortunate son, however, was left with a piece of string, a nail and a hammer, which he used to bang himself. Godless and Wood assume for the purposes of their illustrative example that industrialists borrow all the finance they use for their stocks. Many companies finance their stocks out of equity capital. In their case the real value of the capital and profits would be eroded unless, in addition to their normal mark up, they charged a mark up to allow for inflation. In 1973-74 this additional mark-up would be about 8 per cent (allowing for inflation of 20 per cent) grossing up to 40 per cent to allow for tax and for stocks to be turned over five times a year). Such a mark up for sales to the home market is not compatible with existing price controls. Given price control, much of the profits earned by companies are stock profits, and if these are taxed, a part of the real capital of companies, like the capital of the provincial ironmonger, will disappear. Yours faithfully, C. F. FRATTEN, Trinity Hall, Cambridge.

The nation first

From Mr J. H. B. Gowan Sir, Surely Mr Benn's pronouncement on the George Kent proposals is the most astonishing even he has made. "Mr Benn said the main factor (in his decision) has been the preference expressed to me by the workers in Geogra Kent for the Brown Boveri proposals." It may be that the Brown Boveri proposals were the best from all points of view, but George Kent is part of our national heritage and its fate should be decided on what is best for the nation and not what is most convenient for the workers. If it is Labour policy to treat all businesses as a sort of private preserve of the workers, to be handed purely on a basis of what suits them best, we are in for national bankruptcy in very short order. Yours etc. J. H. B. GOWAN, 38 Old Slade Lane, Iwer, Bucks.

Postal position

From Mr K. H. Hennings Sir, Professor Balfour (Business News, October 24) is wrong: a letter sent from West Germany to Britain requires 70 pfennig postage, roughly 13p. A letter posted to other members of the EEC would cost only 50 pfennig, but as HM Post Office has refused to follow the example of other EEC countries and reduce the bilateral basis the rates for letters sent to EEC member countries to the level of inland postage rates, the West German Post Office feels obliged to charge the standard rate for letters abroad. Yours sincerely, K. H. HENNINGS, Department of Economics, University of Reading, Whiteknights, Reading RG6 2AA October 16.

Advertisement for W Ribbons (Holdings) Limited. Features a large stylized 'WR' logo and text: 'Diversification: the keynote of a record year for W Ribbons'. Includes a table of financial results for 1974 and 1973.

Industry in the regions

Offshore oil challenge to North west market

With the offshore oil industry able to offer a home market of some £500m a year for goods and services, and possibly 10 times that size in the world context, it is hardly surprising that an organization like the North West Industrial Development Association wants to make sure that its own hard-pressed region gets its share of the pickings. The oil industry has few rivals when it comes to putting on a "spectacular" and it did just that when the association sponsored a two-day conference in Liverpool last week. Some of the offshore industry's top executives and technicians were invited to discuss the challenges of a captive audience of 200 industrialists with the larger than life statistics they are able to trot out about their operations. The aim of the conference was to relate offshore needs to the value of the goods they can produce, and in particular to highlight the opportunities that exist for participation by the region. This it succeeded in doing, but perhaps the greatest value of the gathering lay in what turned out to be one of its central and recurring themes. This was that if British industry hopes in cash in on the offshore oil bonanza it will have to put its own house in order first, and do so very quickly. For industrialists the message was simply this: Merely because the offshore oil industry needs to be supported does not mean a significant sale and is prepared to pay handsomely for them, it does not follow that the orders are there for the asking. The industry demands exacting standards of quality and service and newcomers will have to prove beyond doubt that they can match the performance of its proven suppliers. From Mr J. Bowers, who is director of engineering at the Government-sponsored Offshore Supplies Office, came the first warning: "Companies seeking to enter the offshore market must be mindful of the paramount importance of performance, particularly in relation to delivery dates and reliability. The cost of offshore operations is high and delays of even a few days can be very expensive." P. M. Wynn was taken up by Mr Farrow, managing director of Exploration. He said: "No other industry continuously generates and regenerates international risk expenditure on the scale of the offshore oil business. Scores of millions of pounds have to be spent prior to any return on the investment, and therefore the development must proceed at a fast rate, so that the vast quantities of money already spent during development can be amortized against eventual production from the fields. Everything else has to be geared to this." Such warnings as these might well have been calculated to take the edge off the enthusiasm of any manufacturer hoping to break into the oil market. However, the two days in Liverpool provided at least one concrete example of offshore industry ready and waiting to "put its money where its mouth is". It came in the form of a large figure of Mr Bill Farrow, British representative of the Ideco drilling operations division of Dresser Industries, of Texas. Having been told about the conference—although not a delegate to it—he set himself up in Liverpool, mingled in the conference bars and let it be known that in his pockets he had a contract worth £15m for equipment for drilling rigs over the next 14 months. Mr Farrow explained to those ready to listen that his company was facing a backlog of orders in the United States of \$50m. His brief was simply to find alternative sources of supply in Britain or Europe as soon as possible. He was open to offers, but time was short and unless he got a quick response on Merseyside he would start looking elsewhere. By the time Mr Farrow left Liverpool he had had "exploratory talks" with half a dozen or so Merseyside companies. R. W. Shakespeare

Business appointments

Sir Robin's Europe post

Sir Robin Brock, past-president and now vice-president of the Association of British Chambers of Commerce, has been elected president of the Conference Permanente des Chambres de Commerce et d'Industrie, which represents the membership's views of about 800 chambers throughout Europe. Mr Basil J. P. Woods has joined the board of Quest, Ken & Nettleton's director of corporate planning and economic affairs. Mr A. Mitchell has become chairman in addition to his post as managing director of Southern

Advertisement for Unilever N.V. Dividend on Certificates for Ordinary Shares. Includes a table with columns for 'The United Kingdom' and 'Any other country and in all other cases'. The table shows dividend amounts and tax implications for various countries like the Netherlands, Belgium, and others.

Advertisement for Southamton City Bonds. Features a large '13 1/2%' interest rate and text: 'Invest in SOUTHAMPTON Bonds 13 1/2% Minimum Investment £500 Trustee Security'. Includes contact details for Southamton City.



BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

# The retail sector after the Budget

Mr Healey's proposals may or may not be done, they at least assured the retailer that Christmas and even so in train the of a high level of through to the early /white unleashing deflation for the future (in ) of inevitably sharp in nationalized industries, the Chancellor to immediate action the consumer. So comes that have bobbed an unexpectedly cheery August now look of course, by the ound of threshold in- as if they should comp ahead at least into year. After that the will start warning up next Budget, and the of differential value- and other fiscal disin- to consumption could ep the momentum going rough to March.

Mr Healey's proposals week to touch on the s, the specific measures rbitrary in their impact, ices have tended to rise than those for textile Tesco gains around £7m deferrals resulting from tax allowances for stock ation. In no foods, but a group like Marks ancer, where stock levels contained last year, hardly at all.

so it comes to the relaxa- in the Prices Code, these ny appear to have queued alarmist sections of the margins fall by a quarter below refer- levels, retailers can raise goss to compensate. The- ally, this is good news for notable sufferers as Wool- nham Group and others appeared in its recently pub- interim results). But in ce the central problem of these groups is market and image. They may, in find it extremely difficult to improve gross margins by ing prices; as the climate re, its competitors and larger like Tesco appear to be zing to improve market re on a pricing basis.

ut whether they gain from latest Budget or not, rers should now be over the at as far as margins are ealed. The enforced 10 cent cut in the gross in y meant that a group like ks increased its sales by a fifth and just maintained profits. From a second arter of next year sales gains, though the result of inflation volume gains will start to elected in earnings growth, ived internal costs do not rease at a faster rate than lies.

The worrying aspect is the ability to further govern- controls next year. The rent annual saving from ss margin cuts is estimated around £400m by the Price mission. In other words the tailers are protecting the com- mer from the underlying eases in prices to the extent of per cent. Estimated saving £245m in the manufacturing ctor put this figure in per- ective. There must obvi- ly be some risk that the vnement will indulge in rther selective controls next ar, when prices really start e into real disposable come.

**Engineering**

**The worry now - demand**

t is unlikely that the Budget measures will have anything ke as tangible an effect as rofits in the capital goods sec- or as in the consumer sector, mply because of the different ure of the profits involved. One thing that stands out in ny analysis of United Kingdom engineering and certain other

heavy manufacturing industries is the high proportion of profits—typically between a third and a half or even more—that are derived from overseas sales. Sterling depreciation has given rise to large differentials between the price at which a United Kingdom manufacturer can currently sell in Europe (eg 35 per cent in the case of rotary drills) and that which a domestic producer can offer. Given that the relative freedom from price controls overseas, United Kingdom engineers have seen handsome margins on overseas sales. It is no surprise then that the profits curve in engineering has in many cases turned sharply up this year, while that for more United Kingdom dependent and therefore more constrained sectors has often declined. The converse of this is that the engineering sector stands to gain less on the Price Code concession front, both in terms of the productivity deduction and the 17 per cent capital investment rule.

There is, moreover, another reason for supposing this to be true. Though United Kingdom order books in engineering have remained remarkably firm this year, there is some very recent evidence of a general turndown. If orders continue to fall away, the scope for increasing prices in line with the revised code clearly diminishes.

However, the essential point on which there is no doubt is that capital goods profits are in any case much more determined by the level of capacity utilization in relation to overheads than they are by prices and that even the continuation of export demand cannot be guaranteed. Falling demand and narrowing price differentials, certainly in Europe, influence the picture here and it seems unlikely that British manufacturers will get more than a modest devaluation boost, at least as long as Arab funds do not take flight.

As for the 17 per cent investment provision, this seems unlikely to stimulate larger new investment or the resuscitation of shelved projects—Metal Box said so on its own behalf last week—but it will help to recover more of existing investment costs. This, though, is always subject to the general proviso about the market remaining firm enough to stand higher prices.

Post-Budget research by Phillips & Drew shows the theoretical price increase (as a percentage of United Kingdom sales) allowed by the investment provisions. It is between 1 and 2 per cent for the leading general and heavy engineering groups; the significantly higher percentages being in more United Kingdom oriented sectors outside engineering, though an exception is probably the chemical sector.

The stock appreciation provisions will certainly assist liquidity in the engineering sector, though again the beneficial impact will be lessened where a company has heavy capital allowances to set against taxable profits already. The investor should regard the Budget provisions as being calculated mainly to keeping the capital goods sector companies in business in the overall context of a liquidity rather than as a shot in the arm for profits and share prices.

**Edward Bates**

**Outstanding questions**

Edward Bates and Sons (Holdings) has managed to recover some ground in the stock market since the troubles of its Welfare Insurance subsidiary pushed the shares down to 18p in October. But an historic p/e ratio of under 21 and a yield of nearly 30 per cent at 25p put considerable doubts about the ongoing business now that London and Manchester and the National Westminster have agreed to shoulder the burden of Welfare's spiralling cash needs.

In the year to March 31, 1974,

the banking subsidiary expanded at breathtaking speed, with deposits soaring from £48m to £131m and advances rising from £17m to £72m. In the light of the precipitate and costly purchase of Welfare last year and the rapid pace of the build-up, the market's concern about the quality of the rest of the business looks understandable.

Some clues about the course of events since the publication of the balance sheet in June can be gleaned from Bates's statement at the time of the initial agreement with London and Manchester over Welfare. This referred to a liquidity ratio in the bank "currently in excess of 30 per cent of deposits," which Bates still regards as a record since March 31, and a net asset value for the group of around 80p.

Simply making allowance for write-offs of over £94m on Welfare would not have reduced Bates's net worth since the last published balance sheet, however. The crude arithmetic points to further provisions and write-offs in the current year of around £2m, with investments held by lending subsidiaries and advances on property looking like possible culprits. Against a background of general uncertainty in the financial sector and a deteriorating position on the right-hand side of Bates's own balance sheet, the narrow and extent of any support the group can expect from Atlantic Assets Trust, which owns 31 per cent of the equity, is clearly important.

Atlantic is not taking any of the convertible loan stock which Bates is to finance a £2m cash injection in Welfare under the agreement with National Westminster and London and Manchester. Subscribers for the full £2m have apparently been found elsewhere and publication of the terms is expected shortly. But the deal under which Atlantic has agreed to buy Bates's United States subsidiary, Bates Oil Corporation (BOC), on terms which give Bates a £2.2m profit provides an explicit indication of ending support arrangements.

Atlantic is to acquire BOC for £5.4m and it will also make a loan to enable BOC to repay £2.6m of borrowings. The deal is conditional on the approval of Bates's shareholders and other repayments of BOC before completion. The infusion is to pay off these remaining borrowings by selling some of the company's working interests in gas and oil which, it is hoped, will raise enough to wipe the slate clean.

There is, however, a further condition attached to the deal. If Bates does not fulfil the main conditions and the transaction falls through, Atlantic has agreed to make deposits of 50m with Bates's banking subsidiary. The explanation for this rather unusual feature, it is said, is that existing arrangements whereby Atlantic ensures that deposits are made with the bank will come to an end on the completion of the purchase of BOC; if, on the other hand, the deal falls through, Atlantic will resume these arrangements under which a deposit of 50m would immediately be required.

The scope of these reciprocal agreements is not spelt out in the accounts of either company, although it is clear that the support for shareholders in both. Holders of Atlantic Assets, the market value of whose investment in Bates has fallen from over £13m a year ago to little over £1m today, have the opportunity to make enquiries at the annual general meeting on Friday.

Shareholders in Bates, meantime, would do well to ask for some reassurance on arrangements for any future support from Atlantic and its associates at the general meeting called to approve the BOC deal. It is highly unlikely, of course, that the Bank of England would allow the fully authorized banking subsidiary to run into trouble. But the implicit guarantee that the bank will not extend to shareholders in the parent.

In many respects the present American coal industry dispute, which threatens to do great damage to the United States economy, is a test of strength for the U.M.W. President, Mr. Arthur J. Boyle, and the United Mine Workers' Union (U.M.W.).

For years the U.M.W. was led by men of immense power, and corruption was widespread. A rebellion was started to oust the established leadership and it ended in murder. Mr. Joseph "Jack" Yablonski fought to unseat Mr. W. A. "Tony" Boyle, U.M.W. President, and he was killed.

Mr. Boyle is now serving a life sentence for organizing the killing. Mr. Miller replaced Mr. Boyle in late 1972 and the current labour contract negotiation is his first real test.

Mr. Miller worked in the mines for 24 years and he and his colleagues at the top of the U.M.W. today have sought to clean-up and democratize the union. They enjoy strong rank-and-file support, but their position has to face an increasing number of unofficial strikes.

There were more than 1,500 wildcat strikes in the coal mines in 1973 alone. Mine owners admit that industrial relations have reached an almost unworkable state and they hope that the current contract negotiations can pave the way for a new era of effective cooperation.

The talks on the new contract started in early September, but they have gone on for so long because of the vast collection of more than 200 specific demands put forward by the union and because of the negotiating inexperience of Mr. Miller and his colleagues.

But the mine owners also view the new contract as something out of the ordinary. Their relationship with the U.M.W. has deteriorated over the years and they have had to face an increasing number of unofficial strikes.

Mr. Miller, who is 51 and who had to retire from the mines because of ill-health, is after much more in the negotiations than just financial benefits. He is determined to greatly improve safety in the mines and the lot of pensioners. There are more than 90,000 retired miners in the U.M.W. today.

Mr. Miller is also determined to break the autocratic attitude of the mineowners and win agreement on such matters as independent arbitration of minor disputes and the right of miners to strike over local grievances.

# Bigtest for US mine workers' president

The strike will only end after the rank-and-file miners have agreed to the new contract in a ballot. This is the first time in the union's 60 year history that the miners have been directly consulted in this way on a new contract.

This ratification process is part of Mr. Miller's union reforms and the degree of approval the contract obtains from the 125,000 active miners in the U.M.W. will reflect the degree of support that Mr. Miller now enjoys.

A tentative settlement has been agreed, which involves big benefits for the miners, including substantial pay increases and significant improvements in working conditions and pensions.

The coming week will see whether this settlement meets with widespread support from the miners. Mr. Miller has already had considerable difficulty in selling this settlement to the national bargaining council of his own union.

But should the tentative settlement reached by Mr. Miller be rejected by the miners, there is a danger that President Ford will get impatient and seek to invoke the Taft-Hartley Act. By this means the strike will be declared unlawful and an official 30 day cooling-off period will be started. The danger here is that this action will open old wounds in this industry.

As things now stand, there is a good chance that the miners will accept the new settlement and the strike should then end within the next weeks.

Frank Vogel

How do you share a cake when you neither know how big it is nor how much has been eaten? Since redistribution really means the removal of wealth from the personal to the public sector, it is surprising that we should talk so confidently about fair shares when we do not even know the size of our national wealth, let alone how much is already owned by the Government.

Perhaps an even more fundamental question is what we mean by national wealth. The simplest definition is the total sum that will be obtained if every individual and organization resident in the United Kingdom, including companies and government bodies, estimated the net asset value of its assets and liabilities. (This will be the same as the total value of everything in the United Kingdom, plus the difference between our overseas investments and the investments that overseas residents have invested in us.)

J. Revell and A. R. Roe have published estimates showing that this figure rose from £60,000m in 1957 to £140,000m in 1966. Since then, property values, the main determinant of national wealth, have risen sharply.

A study which I conducted for the stockbrokers Sandelson and Company, which has just been published, shows that the total wealth of the United Kingdom in March this year is approximately £400,000m. Those who are worried about Arab oil shaihs buying up the country should take comfort from the fact that even if the OPEC countries used the whole of our oil dollar assets, they would still take more than five years before they had acquired as much as 3 per cent of the present total.

Even though the total value of the United Kingdom has probably declined since March, this should not affect the nature of our conclusions reached in this article.

The physical assets on which the wealth of the United Kingdom is based are shown in the table. Besides the figures in this table, we have a surplus on our overseas investment and a number of other assets which have not been specifically valued. The chief of these is the value of our energy resources.

In figure one I have attempted a rough split between assets directly associated with production and the remainder. It will be seen that two fifths of the wealth of the United Kingdom is invested in dwellings and only half has any important influence on our gross national product. These figures might be borne in mind when considering investment priorities.

A natural question is "Who owns this wealth?" One of the most surprising conclusions from my study is that a large

proportion of our national wealth is not really owned by anyone at all.

The main component of this "unowned" wealth is the assets of companies. In theory, the value of a company should be worth either the same as, or if goodwill is excluded less than, its market capitalization. It follows that if the market value of the shares is treated as a liability, the net asset value of all companies should be zero or negative. In fact, we find it to be £90,000m or 23 per cent of the total. The average shareholder's wealth would be multiplied almost fourfold if the companies in which he had invested went into voluntary liquidation.

Before we can decide who owns this corporate wealth, we must explain why firms are not liquidated in the interests of their shareholders. Under-valued companies continue in business for the benefit of employees, management and customers, and perhaps for the future benefit of shareholders. All these groups then share in this unowned wealth.

The Government also has a stake through potential capital gains tax liabilities.

Another type of unowned wealth is represented by the difference between the vacant possession value of rented properties and their current market value. In our study we found this difference to be £14,000m.

This figure, which might be described as the value of tenants' rights, was not included in our overall valuation, since it is not true, marketable, wealth.

Apart from the 23 per cent of total wealth "owned" by companies, 10 per cent is owned by government, including the public sector, and 67 per cent or £260,000m by private individuals, non-corporate businesses and non-profit making bodies such as charities and trade unions.

It is of interest to see how the distribution of wealth has changed through time. Figure two charts the position at three approximately equally spaced years.

It will be seen that in 1959 the public sector was still in a

# The changing face of wealth

PHYSICAL ASSETS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

Type of Asset	Value £1,000m	% of total
Directly productive		
Agricultural & forest land	22	6
Commercial property	56	15
Industrial property	19	5
Plant and equipment	57	15
Stocks	6	2
Total directly productive	179	46
Partly productive		
Other property	18	5
Public works	15	4
Total partly productive	33	9
Not directly productive		
Government	160	42
Consumers durables	17	3
Total not directly productive	177	45
TOTAL physical assets	378	100

around 53 per cent in 1960 to about 45 per cent in 1970. In spite of this complaints about inequality have become more pronounced. One reason why this should be so is shown in figure three.

This has been calculated by dividing the total wealth of the personal sector at the end of each year by the total personal disposable income or savings for that year. The result can be considered as showing how many years income or saving an average man starting from scratch would require to accumulate an average amount of wealth.

It will be seen from this that to an average man "average wealth" would have meant about 41 years disposable income in 1959 and 1966, but by March this year it would have meant more than 5 years.

Again, with prosperity, the proportion of their income that people were able to save increased. As a result, by 1966, even disregarding interest, it would take an average man to accumulate average wealth out of a lifetime's savings. Since then asset values have risen faster than savings so that the prospect of achieving average wealth by this means will have appeared to become more remote.

If this argument is accepted then the feelings of inequality are due not to an increase in the proportion of wealth owned by the top 1 per cent or 5 per cent but to a widening of the gap between the 45 per cent or so who purchased their first homes before prices rose so rapidly and the remainder.

The way in which the gap between home owners and the rest of the population is growing can be seen from the fact that the percentage of total

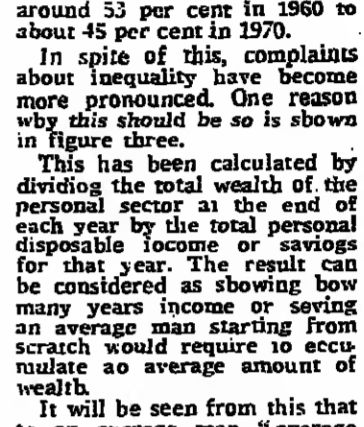
Figure one

position where the market value of the national debt exceeded the value of publicly-owned assets. From then until 1966—largely under a Conservative Government—the public sector gained wealth from private (individuals at a rate of 21 per cent per annum.

Since then the rate has slowed down but "redistribution" still continues at about 1 per cent per annum.

It is difficult to see why we should strain at the goar of a wealth tax which will yield less than £500m when we have already swallowed the camel of inflationary policies which redistribute wealth at a rate which is more than six times as great.

As we have seen, public ownership of wealth has been growing at the expense of the personal sector. In addition, the distribution of private wealth has been becoming more equal. The wealth tax Green Paper, for example, shows that the share owned by the most wealthy 5 per cent of the population fell from



personal wealth accounted for by the value of dwellings less mortgages, rose from 13 per cent in 1959, through 23 per cent in 1966, to 37 per cent in March, 1974.

Whatever other arguments for wealth and capital transfer taxes there may be, we should recognize that neither these, nor any other taxes will close this particular wealth gap between established home owners and the rest of the population. The thorny questions of whether or not the gap should be closed and, if so, how it should be done, are, fortunately, outside the scope of this article.

James Rothman  
National Balance Sheets and National Accounting, Economic Trends, J. Revell and A. R. Roe; HMSO, May, 1971.  
The Wealth of the United Kingdom, J. Rothman; Sandelson and Co, November, 1974.

## McLEOD RUSSEL

### "Record results"

reports Sir John Brown, the Chairman

Comparative Results	1973	1974
Pretax profit	£173,934	£1,124,809
Profit after tax	£83,387	£429,614
Earnings per share	9.52p	19.23p
Funds retained in business	£49,327	£301,002
Ordinary dividends	3 1/2%	5 1/2%

- The successful merger with The Namdang Tea Company and its subsidiary The Makum (Assam) Tea Company, has resulted in satisfactory pretax profits up to £1,124,809 from £173,934 for the year ended 31st March 1974.
- All the Indian companies operated at a profit and, with one exception, produced increased crops and earnings. In the U.K., with the exception of Brechnley & Company, profits registered a substantial improvement.
- The Group's quoted investments show a substantial increase following the merger with Namdang. Although these have suffered from the severe fall in the stock market, they are regarded as long term, with underlying assets considerably in excess of current market values.
- In the current year, prospects in India are reasonably good and although costs and wages have increased substantially, tea prices obtainable in both India and London, show considerable improvements.

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from the Secretary, McLeod Russel & Co., Limited, Victoria House, Vernon Place, London WC2B 4DH.

# Business diary in Europe • Slow boat to Antwerp

Today a pleasure boat with 45 unusual guests will be ploughing its way up the Rhine from Holland towards Düsseldorf, heading for a visit tomorrow to Gast 74, the 23rd international exhibition for the hotel and catering industry.

The guests are 45 "commercial policymakers", as the programme describes them, from nine Asiatic developing countries. The trip is the result of an EEC policy vote in May this year, when the Council of Ministers resolved to extend the financing of activities promoting exports to the non-associated countries in the third world.

The delegates from Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, went aboard in Rotterdam on November 10 and will disembark on November 30 in Antwerp after a tour of Europe's waterways and a crash course in selling to Europe.

In 10 leading cities they will meet industrialists, visit fairs and exhibitions, and be lectured five days a week in their floating hotel on the mentality of the European buyer and consumer.

The trip, organized by the CBI, cost the EEC about £790 per delegate, including return air fare—a good buy compared to the cost of holidays offered in the faraway places where the delegates are based.

The organizers have assured

themselves of a captive audience, but are cutting their teeth on basic problems such as how to keep pork out of the diet of those with religious objections; how to keep the delegates brought with them out of the hands of the customs and how to keep politics out of the symposium as a whole.

The loss of preferential treatment has hit those who export to Britain hard. These delegates do not just want to sell, they want to set up long-term projects such as joint ventures for packaging and marketing their products.

The ship sails to Holland, Germany, France and Belgium. Industrialists from other EEC countries are flying in to meet the Asian commercial summit en route.

**Top press**

A 30-year-old has just been put in charge of France's best known press "empire" headed by France Soir, which with a circulation of nearly one million is the country's best-selling daily.

M. Dominique Ferry has been appointed director general of France's Editions et Publications, which is 80 per cent owned by Hachette, and contributes about a quarter of the press, publishing, library and distribution group's total income.

M. Ferry, who first learnt imported United States cost

efficiency techniques for the press at L'Express, arrives only shortly after the quiet departure of M. Simon Nora as director general and chief administrator of the Hachette group.

The injection of young blood is intended as the first move, beginning in the press sector, to give a basically healthy group the best chance with which to face a downturn.

If the expected economic buffering comes, the French newspapers and magazines with the most efficient management techniques will survive best.

France Soir illustrates the chief problems. It has been hit by rocketing paper costs, higher production charges generally but a fall in advertising, particularly for jobs, from which the French evening paper until now obtained two thirds of its advertising revenue.

With the generalized nervousness now sweeping the French press and printing world—newspaper amalgamations, redundancies at ORF, the French broadcast company, government interference, Europe No 1, commercial radio station, and Neogravure, France's biggest printing concern, awaiting a rescue operation from bankruptcy—both the Ferry appointment and the Nora departure inevitably have political overtones.

M. Nora was closely associated with M. Jacques Chabab-Delmas, the former Gaullist prime minister who lost in M. Giscard

d'Estaing at the presidential election in May.

As Hachette's shares fell on the Paris bourse by 50 per cent between July and July 1973, friendly to the French, President signalled the virtual end of the usefulness of the former Chaban aide to a press enterprise which has always liked to be well in with the government.

But Hachette has judged it wise after the Europe No 1 affair to emphasize that M. Ferry's appointment will in no way interfere with M. Henri Zuzunoy, who also comes from the Chaban-Bordeaux stable, staying on as editor of France Soir.

**Austere vow**

Austerity was the word at the swearing-in of the new head of the government-run National Institute for Industry (INI), Spain's biggest industrial cartel, in Madrid last week.

Señor José María Guerra Zuzunoy, the 47-year-old businessman, lawyer and economist named to take over INI in a moment of political crisis that obliged his predecessor to resign for "reasons of conscience", said last week when he formally took office that he had to offer and all he could promise were "austerity, productivity, economic profitability and, above all, social profitability".

Señor Alfredo Santos Blanco,

Minister of Industry, also remarked on the tough times ahead and on the need for a reexamination of INI's policies.

He said that INI would intensify its efforts in the fields of oil prospecting and the investigation of alternative energy sources. It would also dedicate preferential attention to food production and processing and would cooperate intensively in policies regulating the supply of raw materials.

Señor Zuzunoy has been a professor of public finance and tax law at the University of Madrid, a government adviser on the tourist industry and a top official in the state's social security system.

Subsequently he successively headed two of the biggest INI enterprises, the Hunosa Mining Company and the National Cellulose Company.

The cartel which he now manages is the nation's biggest industrial combine, backed and controlled by the Government although partially financed by private capital.

Among the companies and industries in which INI is a whole or part-owner are Seat, Spain's biggest car manufacturer, the majority of the Spanish shipbuilding companies, and Pofatas de Bu-Craza, the potentially highly profitable company exploiting the world's biggest phosphate deposit in the controversial Spanish colony of the Sahara.

## THE PERAK RIVER HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER CO. LTD.

(and its subsidiary company—The Kinta Electrical Distribution Co., Berhad).

Year to 31st July: (£'000)	1974	1973	1972
Revenue from sale of Electricity	11,615	9,304	6,151
Net Profit after Taxation	987	1,471	1,136
Capital Employed	13,865	13,561	10,487
Ordinary Dividend Rate on:—			
Capital Employed	5.47%	5.32%	6.55%
Issued Capital	24.25%	23.17%	22%
Units sold (millions)	100.5	97.4	96.4

Extracts from the circulated statement of the Chairman, Mr. Hugh G. Balfour.

**PROPOSED PURCHASE.** The Government of the Federation of Malaysia, in exercise of its rights under the Concession Agreement dated 5th November, 1926, gave formal notice on 5th February, 1974, of its intention to purchase the whole of the Company's (and its subsidiary's) The Kinta Electrical Distribution Company, Berhad) electricity supply undertaking in Malaysia on 6th November, 1976. The Government has appointed a Committee to negotiate with the Company as to the value of its Malaysian assets and the price to be paid for them.

**POWER DEMAND.** Total units sold were a record but the net operating profit only slightly although recovering from the decrease of some 2% recorded last year. The mining industry now takes 67.2% of pulpit. Total units generated by the Company and imported from the National Electricity Board of the States of Malaya were 1,686.7 million.

**GROSS REVENUE** at £11,615,296 was 10.8% greater but the net operating profit of £1,822,957 compared with £2,545,774 (as adjusted for currency conversion) reflects the adverse effect of the very big increase in the cost of fuel oil during the year.

The Annual General Meeting will be held at 12 noon on Wednesday, 20th November, 1974, at Management House, Parker Street, London, WC2B 5PS. Copies of the Report and Accounts are obtainable from the Secretary at this address.



FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Catel Trust provides £590,000 for Jessel write off

Shareholders in Jessel Securities... the financial unit trust and industrial holding group...

exceptional provision of £590,000 against its shareholding in Jessel Securities...

Bank of Canada cuts rate to 8 1/2 per cent

Bank of Canada reduced its bank rate to 8 1/2 per cent from 9 per cent, effective from today...

slackening in the demand for credit, a moderate easing of the bank's tight rein on charges...

NY petition by Israel Bank

An involuntary bankruptcy petition was filed last Friday in New York Federal Court against Israeli British Bank...

that Israel British, which is engaged in the banking and securities brokerage business in the city of New York...

Dispute over RCM payments for arbitration

The Zambian government and Amax have agreed in principle that the Roan Consolidated Mines copper sales and management contracts will be terminated...

If the compensation question does in fact reach the arbitration stage, it will be heard before the International Court for Settlement of Investment or Industrial Disputes.

Union miniere takes stake in modules

Union Miniere, the Belgian mining finance house, has taken a 25 per cent stake through its new subsidiary, Union Mines...

Details soon of CSI scheme

Details are expected this week of the proposed reconstruction of Cannon Street Investments, the banking, investment and property group...

Mr W. T. Hislop, the Cannon Street managing director, said last week that the reconstruction was extremely complex...

In its preliminary statement on the reorganization on September 27, Cannon Street explained that the proposed reorganization had become essential as a result of the cumulative effect of circumstances since December 1973...

The bare bones of the reconstruction scheme involve the conversion of the group's partly convertible loan stock and certain preference shares...

McLeod resumes

Occidental Petroleum is resuming payments on its common stock with a cash dividend of 25 cents per share...

With regard to future prospects Sir John D. K. Brown, the chairman of McLeod Russel, says that, most unusually, it is possible for once to take a reasonably optimistic view of the current year's profit from tea manufacture...

Last year's record profit is expected to be beaten this year at Warwick Engineering...

Silhouette cut interim to conserve liquidity

Silhouette (London), the foundation garment, leisurewear and swimwear group...

Group has opened full-service branch in Milan which offers full range of commercial building services...

Group has opened full-service branch in Milan which offers full range of commercial building services...

Wool prices improve with Japan buying more at auctions

Wool prices staged a good rally in London last week with the March position in the greasy wool contract advancing 6.25p to 167p per kilo...

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shops and wool consumption West Germany is likely to increase in 1975...

shops and wool consumption West Germany is likely to increase in 1975...

Mocatta's US gold scheme

From Frank Vogl Washington, Nov 17. Mocatta Metals Corporation, the United States subsidiary of the British Mocatta and Golds...

Mocatta's scheme involves supplying regional United States banks with a wide range of gold coins and an assortment of gold bullion bars...

prices to the public with assurance of the price they will pay for replenishing their gold supplies...

Paterson in trim for expansion

Stressing that accurate forecasting in more difficult than before, Mr J. B. Zacharis, chairman of Paterson Zacharis, the West Africa merchants and manufacturers says the group is strong and well placed to continue its policy of expansion...

Warwick Eng

Last year's record profit is expected to be beaten this year at Warwick Engineering...

Good start at Pearidge

Pearidge of Birmingham, makers of furnishing and ornamental brassware, have made a good start to 1974...

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

Table listing various financial products, their prices, and details. Includes sections for Authorized Unit Trusts, Insurance, and Offshore Funds.

The Times Share Indices

Table showing share indices for various categories like All-Share, Industrial, and Government Stocks.

Results this week

Table listing company names and their results for the week, categorized by date (Today, Tomorrow, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday).

WEDNESDAY: Finals

Table listing company names and their results for Wednesday.

THURSDAY: Finals

Table listing company names and their results for Thursday.

FRIDAY: Interims

Table listing company names and their results for Friday.

Weekly list of fixed interest stocks

Table listing various fixed interest stocks, their prices, and yields.

Bank Base Rates

Table listing bank base rates for various banks like Barclays, Hill Samuel, etc.

CONVERTIBLES

Table listing convertible stocks and their details.

Bank Base Rates

Table listing bank base rates for various banks.

CONVERTIBLES

Table listing convertible stocks and their details.

Bank Base Rates

Table listing bank base rates for various banks.





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Stock Exchange Prices Capitalization & week's change

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began Nov 11. Dealings End Nov 22. Contango Day, Nov 25. Settlement Day, Dec 3.

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

For Really Discerning Drinkers HIGH & DRY Really Dry Gin

property investments Smith LONDON LEEDS PARIS

Table with columns: Capitalization, Company, Price, Change, Gross Div, Div Yield, P/E. Includes sub-sections for Commercial and Industrial and Mining.

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Shipping, Financial Trusts, and other market-related information.







مركز من الأصل

# Commercial and Industrial Property

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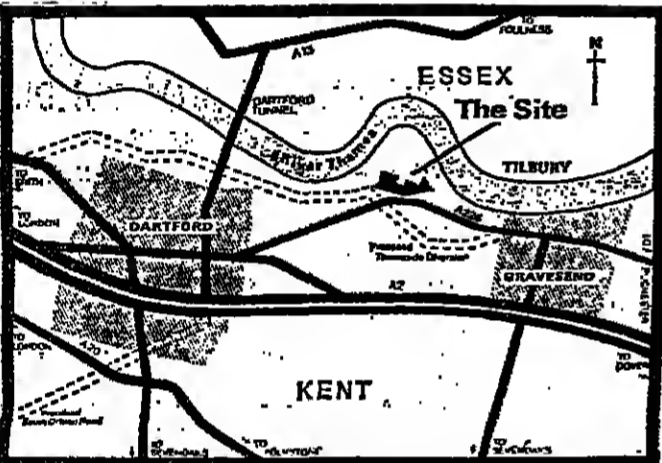
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salary to be negotiated. Good  
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An aerial view of the completed La Boursière office scheme, near Paris.

Whatever may be the long-term effects of the Budget on the property market, although immediately it seems to have little direct effect on property matters except for general business considerations, there is continuing buoyancy in the industrial sector. Lettings are being made, particularly of buildings already constructed, and no doubt things will be helped along a little by the tax concessions on industrial building.

Demand is particularly good in the South-east, where rents are reaching high levels. For instance, the first letting has been made on the Abbey Wharf Industrial Estate, in Kingsbridge Road, Barking, a development by Crown Freeholds.

The first unit on the estate, a renovated warehouse and office building of 31,000 sq ft, has gone to J. W. Levy and Co. at a rent of about £130 a year. There are three other new units under offer at rents of about £150 a sq ft. The letting was through Michael Kalmar and Partners.

At Ripple Road Trading Estate, lettings have been agreed on several small renovated industrial units at £140 a sq ft. The development is by Clarendon Holdings. The joint agents are Michael Kalmar and Partners and Jones Lang Wootton.

Eighty-four thousand sq ft of office, industrial and warehouse space on the Great West Road, Brentford, has been let to the Strand Glass Company. The lease is for 25 years. The rent has not been disclosed, but it is understood that the freeholders were thinking of £100,000 a year. The lessees were introduced by Chesterton, who acted for the freeholders in conjunction with Jones Lang Wootton and J. R. Eves and Son. The letting agents have been retained by Strand Glass to dispose of surplus space on a contract warehousing basis, which will provide a comprehensive service to include handling and security of goods.

In Sussex, Pambarns, Ltd. the investment subsidiary of Braysier (Industrial Contracts) Ltd, the industrial developer,

## Buoyancy in industrial buildings

is working on the first three units of a scheme of about 105,500 sq ft on part of the Burgess Hill Industrial Estate. The Pambarns scheme will provide 140 warehouses from 12,000 sq ft. in all it will contain 93,250 sq ft of warehouses and 12,250 sq ft of offices.

The first unit of 13,200 sq ft, including 905 sq ft of offices, is nearing completion. It is available for letting with the two other units, each providing 20,965 sq ft including 2,865 sq ft of offices. The agents are Weatherall Green Geering and Colyer, of Haywards Heath.

On the Slough Trading Estate, Mercedes-Benz is to dispose of two factory or warehouse units because of its acquisition of a 220,000 sq ft parts centre on the site of the former Westland Helicopter factory at Hayes, Middlesex. The agents are Grant and Partners. The larger of the two units has about 56,000 sq ft of virtually clear space, with an eaves height of about 16ft. The lease, which expires in March, 1980, is held from Slough Industrial Estate and incorporates an index rental element giving a rent of £7,928 a year. Offices of 230,000 are being asked for the lease. The other unit has about 8,000 sq ft. The lease expires in 1982. The rent is £4,600 a year. Negotiations are in hand for an assignment.

On the Angel Drive Trading Estate at Ely, a rent of 72½ p a sq ft is being asked for a development completed recently by Roadway Construction. The scheme will cover about 92,300 sq ft, about a quarter of which has been let. Tenants include Securicor, and Vanguard Plastics Division (UK), Hampton and Braysier (Industrial Contracts) Ltd, the letting agents say that much interest is being

shown in the remaining units, which consist of warehouses and offices and an industrial building of 9,000 sq ft.

An interesting renovation job coming along in London concerns 33 and 36 Grosvenor Street, Mayfair, which are adjacent to the Canadian High Commission and the Italian Embassy. The leases have been bought from Colman Prentiss and Varley (Holdings) by Wheatheaf Investments, the development company of the Grosvenor Estate, the freeholders.

Offers over £150,000 were being asked. Wheatheaf intends to rebuild both buildings behind the existing facades, which are protected. Work is due to start after Christmas for completion about March, 1976. The scheme will provide about 10,000 sq ft of offices and a flat. Jeffrey Young and Co acted for Colman Prentiss and Varley. Picher Herberman and Partners, who acted for Wheatheaf, are letting agents with Hillier Parker May and Rowden. Jeffrey Young and Co are also offering 34 Grosvenor Street, which has about 13,250 sq ft net of offices. The lease is for sale, but rental offers of about £2 a sq ft would be considered.

On the Continent, work has been completed on the giant La Boursière office scheme on the outskirts of Paris. The design architects for the development, which has been carried out by the English Property Corporation, were the Charles Living Partnership, of London. The development is located to the south of the city on the new outer rim motorway, close to Orly airport. About a fifth of the building is let and occupied. Letting is through Bourdais & Weatherall SA, of Paris.

More new offices are planned in Bristol, where the Comben Group has acquired a site in Whiteladies Road for a mixed development of 13,000 sq ft of offices and 10 flats. Building is expected to start in the new year. Lalonde Bros and Partners of Bristol, acted for the Comben Group and are retained for the office lettings. Peter E. Soper and Partners, also of Bristol, will be dealing with the flats. The vendors were represented by Stanley Alder and Price.

Gerald Ely

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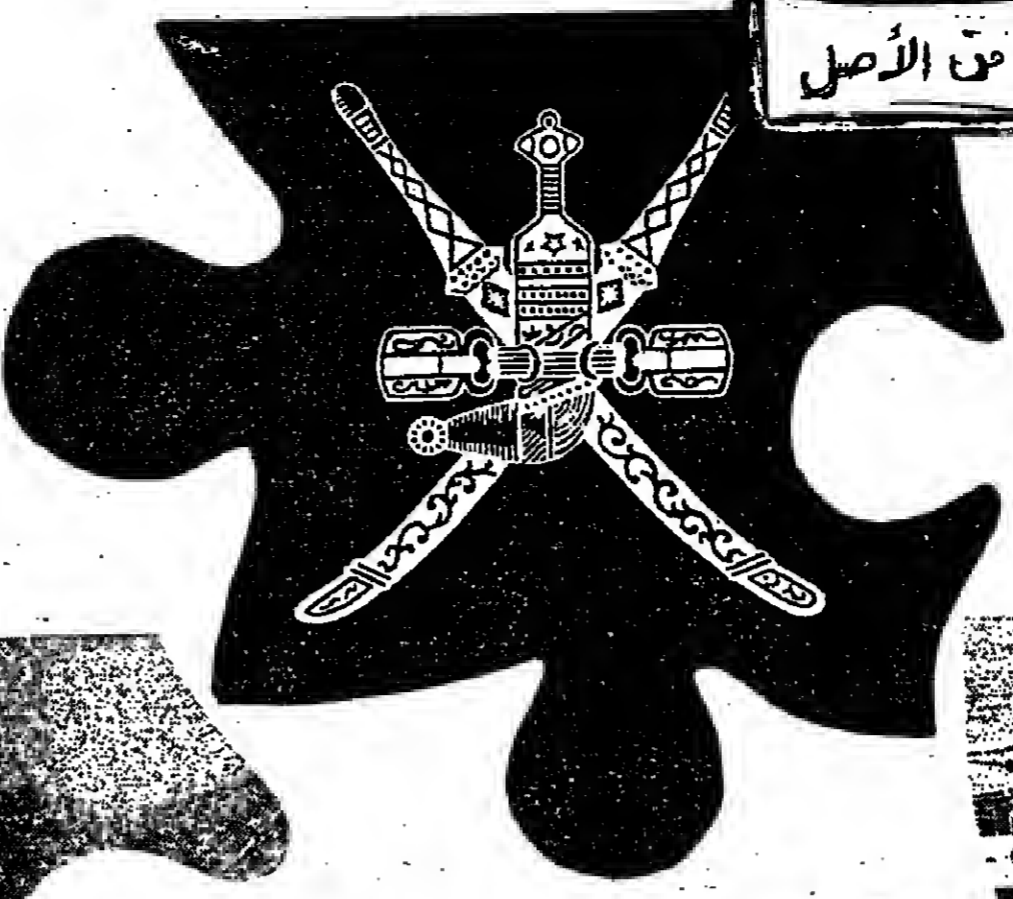




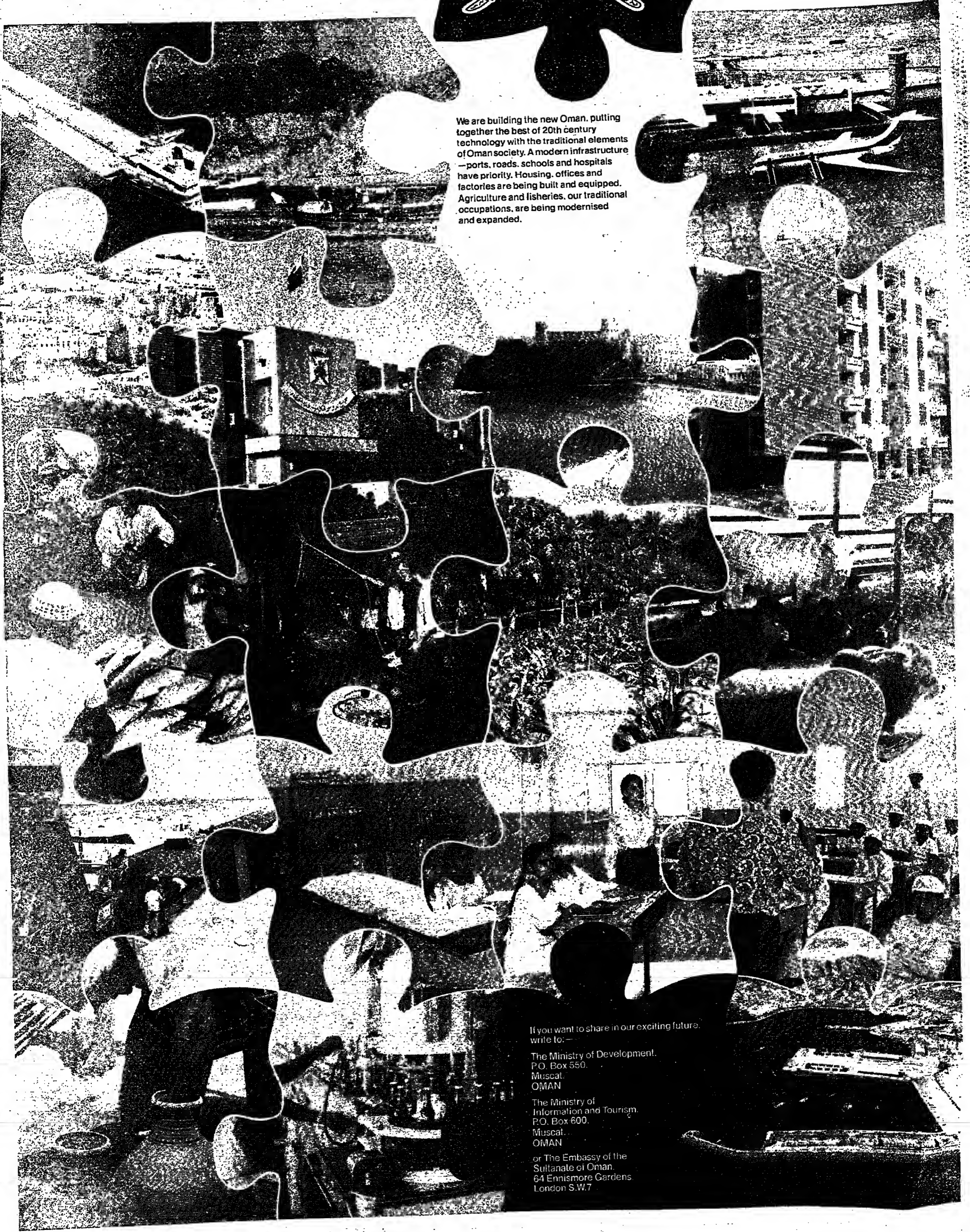


# OMAN

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us of oil  
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Owen traces the progress of Oman's war against the insurgents and explains its political and strategic significance to the whole Gulf area

### Strengthened army slowly turns tables against the rebels

Warfare has been... intensity in Dhufar... What is a local rebellion... Sultan Said... the late Ruler... developed... guerrilla.

...the Liberation of... the Arabian Gulf... aimed, as its... imply, not only... the existing... Oman but the... of the area... to the Gulf... to the Sultan.

...the rebel... when the... withdrew from Aden... West and East Aden... at the end of... What had formerly... frontier... and the East... Hadramaut Beduin... under the control of... became over... frontier... by the People's... Republic... governed by a vir... regime deeply... the sultanate.

...at this time the... Chinese, quick to... the opportunity... situation presented... influence in the... and supplied... training and poli... doctination cadres, as... military equipme... be heavily... People's Front for... beration of Oman and... rbian Gulf.

...military situation... even though the... finally agreed to... the Sultan's Armed... to operate in Dhufar... where they had been... usily debarred... far had been run... as a private estate by... Said bin Taimur with... ally recruited defence... led by Pakistan... rs. By the middle of... when Sultan Qaboos... sed his father, the... n's forces controlled... Salalah, the capital on... coast, and the surround... coastal plain. The rebels... freedom of movement in... mountainous areas... and the coastal plain, and... here they frequently... to bombard Salalah air... with mortar fire at... it.

#### Tribesmen brought over to sultan

...tribesmen brought... over to sultan... 1970... military and political... the tables have been... ed against the rebels. Sul... Qaboos and his Govern... have appreciated from... start that the solution to... problems is as much poli... as military, though it is... nial to gain the initiative... irarily and to be seen to... upper hand before the... ical solution follows. This... cess is now well ad... eed.

...immediately on his acc... Sultan Qaboos... the Dhufaris the concess... and rights on which the... al rebellion had origina... ly based. This had the... come effect of bringing... r to his side a number... tribesmen who had until... been supporting the... els.

...but by this time the control... scope of the guerrilla war... passed far beyond the as... ations of the Dhufaris, and... ical indoctrination of the... tribesmen in the mountain... had a considerable effect... do the war went on... However, the concessions... ated at this time provided... an opportunity to organize... gots (bands of armed... tribesmen) from those who... me over to the Sultan... erate to his support. With... ir knowledge of the wild... rugged mountain areas... th their deep wadis choked... h dense vegetation to... hich the guerrillas operate... well as their influence... th the local tribesmen... ese firqas, who now num... r 20, have proved to be... valuable.

#### Census will solve population mystery

...Norma Ashworth... by the end of 1974 Oman's... first comprehensive census... survey of the sultanate's... five largest towns will have... been completed. The results... are expected to be both... valuable and surprising.

...Population figures in the... past have been arrived at... through a process of intelli... gent guesswork and close... observation, not greatly... heped by the information... put forward by the inhabi... tants. The Omanis believe... their population to be... greater than a million;... foreign observers consider... that 600,000 is a more... realistic figure.

...The explanations for dis... parities (in tiny villages as... well as in towns) are com... plex. Despite the outward... appearance of a changed way... of life and a modern out... look shared by these most... adaptable of people, old tra... ditions of well-intentioned... duplicity persist.



Soldiers of the Sultan's army wait for transport back to Salalah after a tour of duty fighting rebels in Dhufar.

...and orphans of those killed... in the mountains, many of... whom had earlier been in... doctinated by the commun... ists, and now being educated... by future leaders of their... country.

...A steady expansion and... modernization of the armed... forces over the past four... years has gone hand in hand... with a drive to wrest the... initiative from the rebels in... Dhufar. Salalah and the... entire coastal plain are now... secure from attack and... bombardment, and the rebels... driven well back into the... mountains and towards the... frontier of the People's... Democratic Republic of... Yemen.

...Previously the Sultan's... Armed Forces were unable... to maintain their positions... in the mountains during the... monsoon rains which last... from June to September, and... retired to the coastal plain... during this period.

...For the last two monsoons... they have succeeded not... only in holding their posi... tions and maintaining a line... which divides the rebel posi... tions 50km from the border... of the People's Democratic... Republic of Yemen, but in... seriously hampering the rebel... resupply operations which... normally take place during... the monsoon.

...As a result of this policy... of attrition the rate of volun... tary surrenders by commu... nist rebels has more than... doubled in the last year. The... support to the ground forces... given by the completely re... equipped air force of the... Sultan of Oman has been... increasingly effective with... low level attack support... against enemy positions, as... well as supply and casualty... evacuation services by heli... copter, and most recently... shore bombardment by the... new Sultan of Oman's navy... has increased pressure on the... rebels' lines of communica... tion.

...The composition of the... Sultan's Armed Forces on... Sultan Qaboos with considerable... headwings were almost... vestigial anyway. The army... was almost entirely officers... of British seconded and... contract officers with a few... Pakistanis at lower adminis... trative levels. The other

...of mud-brick houses and... bazaar huts can mislead an... outsider who understands... little of the periodic in... fluxes of nomads, and does... not observe more than the... meetings of the village men.

...Although the village... women are seen in the... streets and at work in the... gardens, the female inhabi... tants of the towns still lead... somewhat cloistered lives... Random observation in the... two largest population... areas, Muscat and Matrah, ... could persuade a visitor... that Oman's was an all-male... society.

...Apart from foreign... women, young children and... the Baluchis, there are... rarely women among the... shoppers and never among... the gossipers in the coffee... shops. This is changing with... education and greater free... dom to leave their houses... and leave their faces unco... vered, but it can be... assumed that a census will... bring forth numbers far in... excess of the estimated... female population.

...support aircraft due to be... delivered shortly.

...The navy, at present with... three modern patrol vessels... based at the new naval base... in Muscat Bay, is shortly to... be reinforced with four fast... patrol vessels from Britain... two minesweepers from Hol... land, to be converted into... tropical patrol ships, and a... supply ship.

...Probably the most signifi... cant change has been the... process of "Omanization". More... than 100 Omanis are being... commissioned each year... either from the ranks or by... direct entry. All officer... candidates must do at least... a year in the ranks, when they... can be assessed, often under... combat conditions in Dhufar.

...Basic officer training is at... the Sultan's Armed Forces... training centre near Muscat, ... while specialist training is... done abroad. Recruit train... ing, which includes general... education, is done at the... training centre for all the... services, but the navy, which... has its own training ship, is... beginning to do its own train... ing.

#### Aircrew initial training school

...There is also a school for... junior leaders. Recently a... technical training school for... the Sultan of Oman's air... force has been opened, and... shortly there will be an air... crew initial training school... This then is the military... strategy which is being pur... sued to combat and over... come the enemy in Dhufar. A... mercenary army has had to... be transformed into a... national army, which takes... time and the calibre of the... manpower improved. At the... same time the different... branches of the services have... had to be completely... equipped with modern... weapons and equipment.

...The political strategy has... been infinitely more tor... tuous. Iran, which shares the... concern and responsibility of... Oman in keeping communis... m out of the Gulf, con... tributed in a practical man... ner by supplying helicopters... and troops to assist in the... operations in Dhufar.

...The Iranian troops operat... ing independently of the Sul...

...ran's Armed Forces success... fully opened the road... through the Qara mountains... between Salalah and Mid... way. They have now all... returned home.

...This Iranian intervention, ... albeit with the full agree... ment of the Oman Govern... ment, did not find favour... in some Arab circles. Un... confirmed reports in some of... the Arab press talk of nego... tiations going on for the... replacement of the Iranian... troops from other friendly... Arab states. This is all part... of more widespread discus...

...sions in which attempts are... being made to divorce the... regime in the People's Demo... cratic Republic of Yemen... from extraneous commu... nist, principally Russian, in... fluence by means of financial... and economic assistance... from oil-wealthy Arab states.

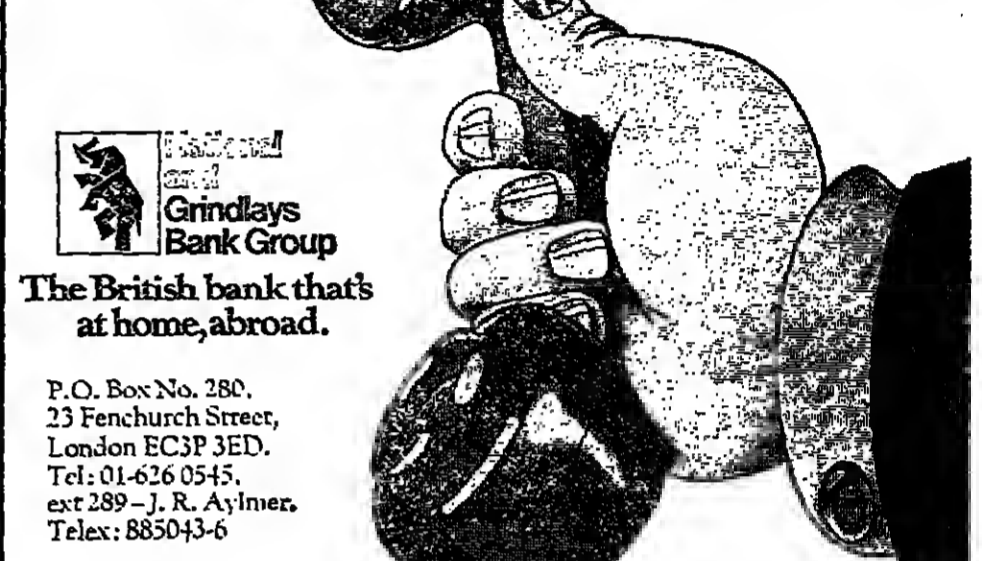
...The way would then be... open for a cessation of the... support and assistance from... the People's Democratic Re... public of Yemen, which... also assists the campaign... in Dhufar of the People's... Front for the Liberation of... Oman and the Arabian Gulf.

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# the teamworkers in Oman

There are few places in the world where you can see change and development without destruction of older, more valuable traditions. One of these places is Oman. In this one country, you will see more projects for the future than in many nations that pride themselves for planning ahead. Under the guidance of Sultan Qaboos, the list of achievements to date is startling. The plans for the future are equally impressive. At Taylor Woodrow, we have played some small part in this. In Muscat, in northern Oman, we have built a hospital. And a new township, Medinat Qaboos, is being built. We also have the delicate task of renovating existing buildings in line with traditional architecture. Buildings like the museum, the guest palace, the United Nations building. In Salalah, in the south, we have been largely responsible for the development of the city. First came the roads, the harbour and the water supply schemes. Since then we have built the Cable and Wireless building; a bathor; telephone exchange; Province headquarters building; and we extended the airfield. At the moment we are building the new television studios. We are, naturally, pleased with the contribution we have been able to make. And it is our pleasure now to wish Oman all that is best for the future.

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# companies play vital role in developing nation

which amounted to £125m a year but which ceased in 1967. The oil revenues started to accrue.

From this subsidy the arms, equipment and transport for the Sultan's Armed Forces were purchased through the Crown Agents in London. Now Britain is the biggest supplier of military equipment, including naval and air force to the SAF which has greatly expanded since Sultan Qaboos came to power in 1970.

British exports to Oman have risen sharply since 1967, and reflect the prosperity which has come to the country, particularly since the rapid expansion of the economy which started in 1970. In the years from 1963 to 1967 British exports to Oman rose from 1.2m to 2.3m. By end of 1973 they had risen to £22.2m and it is estimated that the figure for 1974 will be approaching £30m.

The main dutiable items exported from Britain to Oman are transport equipment, machinery, metal manufactures, and iron and steel. In 1973 transport equipment, valued at nearly £7m, accounted for 30 per cent of British exports to Oman. These consisted mostly of Bedford trucks, Range Rovers and Land Rovers, many of which are ordered by the SAF, though many also go to commercial users for trade in the interior where road conditions are still poor. Unhappily Britain has not shared in the boom in cars, where the market has been almost entirely seized by the Japanese.

A British car is a rare sight in Oman. Exports of electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances at just

over £3m accounted for just over 13 per cent, and other machinery at slightly under £2m for 12 per cent. Iron and steel, another major British export, were worth £1.5m or almost 7 per cent of British total exports to Oman.

It has not been possible to give an entirely accurate assessment of British exports to Oman, as the Omani authorities have only recorded the imports which are dutiable, these being mainly consumer goods. All imports for government departments, public sector projects and Petroleum Development (Oman) are non-dutiable. This accounts for a big slice of the imports. It is hoped that from January the Omani authorities will publish full details of all imports from which a clearer and more accurate picture will emerge.

In assessing British trade with Oman there are important factors other than the straightforward export of manufactured goods and other materials which must be taken into consideration. British firms and consultants have major contracts in many spheres of the current development programme, which includes building projects, road and airfield construction, and radio and television.

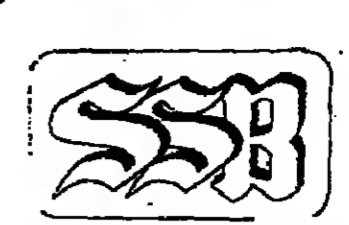
The biggest single item of the development programme is the twin townships of Muscat and Ma'arah. For this John R. Harris are the architects, Scott Wilson KBR are the consulting engineers and Widney & Trollope the quantity surveyors. Richard Costain built the £1.8m stadium outside the capital where today's National Day celebrations will be held.

Sir William Halcrow & Partners are the consulting engineers for the great new port of Mina Qaboos with its eight deepwater berths at Ma'arah which is approaching completion. The new dual carriageway sea road at Ma'arah which was completed in 1973 had Sir Lindsay Parkinson & Co as its contractors.

Apparently the old walled town of Muscat is to have its attractiveness restored by a £5m restoration programme the contractors for which are Taylor Woodrow Towell, a company recently formed by Taylor Woodrow International and W. J. Towell of Oman. The same group is involved in a £20m contract designed to take the pressure off existing built-up areas by building a new town at Qurum near Muscat. This new town is being built to the design of Michael Brashler Associates, the London architects.

In Dhufar a five-year programme for the modernisation of the town of Salalah has been announced, and Sir William Halcrow & Partners have been commissioned as consulting engineers to supervise the construction of a new town centre with commercial offices, shops, municipal buildings, government housing, a hospital and a new airport.

Taylor Woodrow Towell has a contract for road building in the plain of Salalah as well as for the improvement of a 100-mile stretch of road between Buraimi and Ibrt in the north of the Sultanate. George Wimpey, who won the first big building contract in Oman for the P.D.O. housing estate at Ras al Hamra, has a £2.4m



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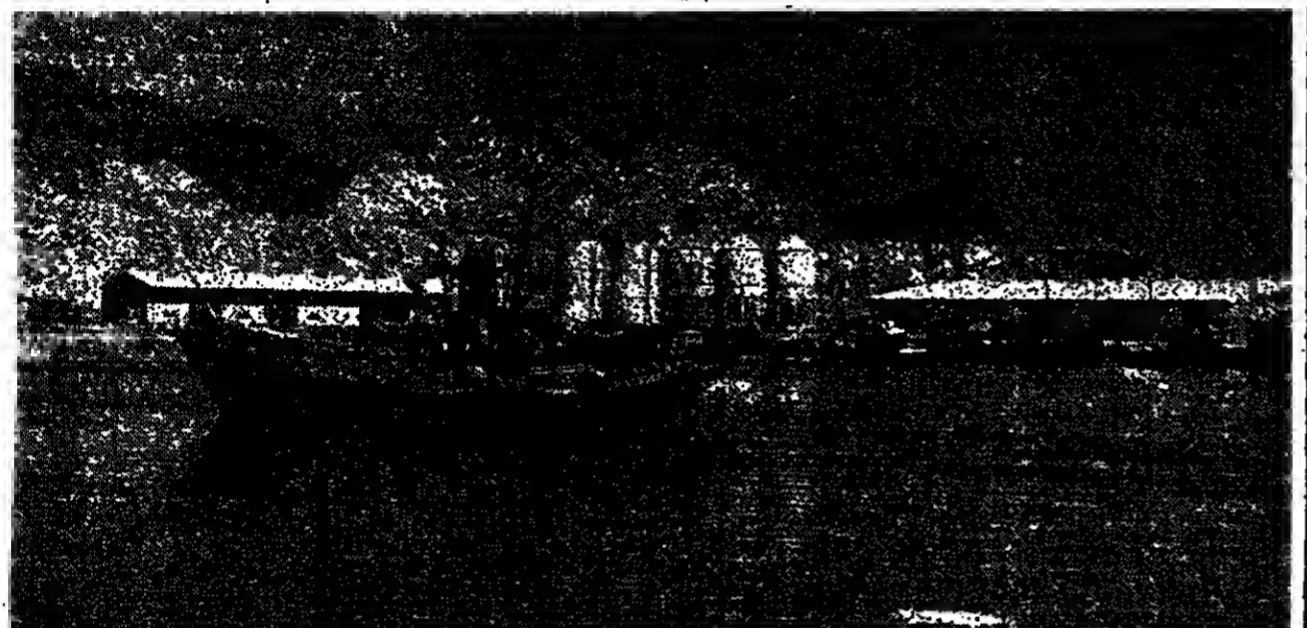
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## Government's confidence in industrial future

development in had to make a slow beo Sultan Qaboos power in 1970, his ne of change listed priorities, with education, housing ds at the top. A confident of an g revenue from oil to have no pressing a diversified econ-



Silo station of marine cement at Muscat. The first main non-oil investment was the setting up of a cement factory.

soon recognized that ce upon oil s might mean flac-prosperity and would y mean curbing the e's capacity for ig change. The deci- is taken to set up a l Development Organi- which was given wide to plot the country's y soon became the y of Development, its implicit in its title e number of direc- and departments o the past two years. e industrial side, 1974 a the major progress. ow be accepted that an industrial future an— a by no means progression from a agricultural economy on dates and Ezees' subsequent climb into ship with other oil- ing Gulf countries. In- is new hur predicted g measurably success- terms of government s within four years.

possibilities of the natural gas resources. A fertilizer plant costing in the region of £210m are to be set up early next year. Gazco of France have the contract for the fertilizer factory and an American corporation, Tesoro Petroleum, will be building the liquefaction plant. The Omani Government will have a majority share in both enterprises.

A pipeline from the petroleum gas fields in the interior will feed the fertilizer plant, which will provide raw material for a planned 2,000 tons of ammonia and urea a day. A new sea water desalination plant and electricity generating plant will also be fuelled by the same project.

With the opening of new oil fields in the interior and a projected rise of 40 per cent on the present output of 300,000 barrels of crude oil a day by 1976, the use of natural gas is being discussed for rubber and petrochemical plants. There is also the possibility of an oil refinery.

Most industries of the future will be dependent upon a favourable source of water and this is an anxiously-discussed subject wherever industrial development is contemplated. A survey is being carried out by four separate European companies on the future of Oman's natural water supply. The results of their investigations will decide whether or not the establishment of a cane sugar refinery on the fertile Batinah Coast is feasible.

A start has been made on raising the capital for Oman's first flour mill for which a site has been found at Ibru, in Ma'arah. The Government is to have a 20 per cent interest and the remaining 80 per cent of the shares are being offered—solely to Omani nationals. The project will cost 2.5m rials. The supporting project, the provision of grain silos, is being financed solely by the Government at a cost of 1m rials.

Two soft drink factories have opened this year, using imported concentrate to pro-

duce cola, squash, tonic and lemonade. They have made a successful enough start for the Government to have supported the importation of the same varieties of drink, except under special licence. The output from the factories is expected to cope with the country's needs at a cost to the consumer of roughly half that of the imported brands.

In southern Oman, in Sur, the old industry of boat-building has been revived, with government help, and has given a new impetus to the business life of this old port which was once an important market for India's malabar wood trade.

The most visibly spectacular of Oman's industries is construction work. The main part is being handled by large foreign contractors but Omani building firms are winning more contracts for jobs classified as "first class".

Under new laws formulated early this year, all firms operating in Oman must have Omani representation, so that there is participation in all

development projects. In the building trade, however, two of the most successful contractors, firms are totally Omani companies.

Industries on a small scale, outside the more potentially prosperous primary industries of fisheries, agriculture and minerals, have built up to such an extent in only two years that factories are contributing to the building boom as much as houses.

The factories, carpentry and joinery workshops and metal industries are spreading in the areas around Muscat. The traditional arts and handicrafts of pottery, weaving and copper ware are becoming the chief sources of prosperity in the districts away from the capital.

An indication of the confidence felt by the Government in planning an industrial future was the establishment this year of the country's first analytical laboratory under the new Department of Quality Control and Specifications within the Directorate of Industry. N.A.

## Technological revolution ends seclusion

1970 Oman was as difficult of access as any country in the world. Ex-Sultan had pursued a rigid policy of exclusion. Along entire 1,000 miles of coastline there were no port cargo vessels could against a quayside. No worth the name had carved through the rains to the outside world.

The small airport Muscat was a tiny strip surrounded by jagged mountains that nervous passers closed their eyes in terror during the approach to touchdown.

It was not that the ex- an lacked money. In the two years of his rule e nearly \$60m had ued in oil revenues. Lit- had been spent. Five s of tarmac had been t between Muscat, the tal, and it twin town of ah. An inadequate air station had been t between the two towns. ttle desultory work had o done to improve ship- ore unloading facilities vstrah.

In the past four years under an Qaboos have seen nentous developments. A port with an inner in for coastal vessels and berths for ocean vessels been created in Ma'arah. It is now in full hidle n and can handle 00,000 tons of cargo a day. The project, which has a £20m, was a spectacular e. Consultant engineers re Sir William Halcrow d Partners, and contrac-

tors were a joint venture between Hochtief of West Germany, and Six Construct, a consortium of Belgian, Dutch, French and Spanish firms based in Brussels.

On the north-west flank of Ma'arah Bay, where the mountains rise sheer from the sea, millions of tons of rock were blasted in form a 42-acre area of hardstanding for storage and warehousing. The whole is protected by a 2,300ft breakwater, armoured on its seaward side by 10,000 wts dispersing "stabilis" each weighing 15 tons and moulded in concrete at a casting yard near by.

A small five-berth harbor is in operation at Ray- sut, 14 miles east of Salalah, main base for operations against the guerrillas lurking in the southern Dhofar province. This port was designed and built by Taylor Woodrow International and is protected by a 1,360ft breakwater. Built for small trading and coastal vessels, it handled more than 100,000 tons of cargo from its opening in October, 1973, to the start of the monsoon last June. Plans are now being completed for a considerable expansion of the port and development of the surrounding area. Further north, berthing facilities and protected anchorages are also being planned both at the ancient port of Sur and at Sohar.

A fine new airport was opened last year at Seeb on the coastal plain, about 20

miles north-west of Muscat. The £5m contract was awarded to Joannow and Paraskevides (or Nicosta) with Balfour Beatty (International) as technical subcontractors and design work and supervision by NV Naco (Netherlands Airport Consultants).

The runway is 10,000ft long with capability of a further 2,000ft extension. It can be used by Boeing 747s and has already been visited by Concorde on a demonstration flight. Nine major international airlines make regular visits and from this month Gulf Air, in which Oman has a 25 per cent shareholding, is to make six VC10 visits each week. The terminal buildings have separate accommodation for international and domestic flights and a cargo terminal that can be enlarged as traffic increases.

Down at Salalah, where the dirt strip was formerly used only by military aircraft, a 5,000ft tarmac runway has been laid which is also now used six times a week by Gulf Air civil aircraft. Future plans include an extension of the runway to 12,000ft with an instrument landing system, as at Seeb, to assist aircraft during the heavy monsoon mists.

Under Sultan Qaboos there has been a tremendous surge in road building. By the middle of this year Oman had 250 miles of first-class asphalt roads and a

further 2,500 miles of graded roads with maintained natural surfaces. Besides urban networks round Muscat, Ma'arah and Salalah, a main coastal road has been laid over the 150 miles from Muscat to Sohar in the north.

This road has now been extended a further 50 miles northwards to the border with the United Arab Emirates at Khartum al Malahah and Aswad. It links with the UAE's main road system leading through Fujairah and Sharjah to Dubai, with its great port, and Abu Dhabi. Sohar is now being connected by a tarmac road inland to Buraimi and Al Ain, in Abu Dhabi state, a difficult project which will take 1-2 more years to complete. From Al Ain, Abu Dhabi town is now easily reached within 100 minutes.

From Seeb, another major project under construction will give access to Nizwa in the interior which will ultimately be continued to Ibrt and thence to Buraimi and Al Ain.

A special road-building effort is being made in Dhofar province, not purely for strategic military purposes, but also as part of the Government's "hearts and minds" policy to win over remote villages by bringing in supplies, providing health and other services and giving the inhabitants easier access to local markets for their produce.

This year a 36-mile road has been completed from Port Raysut, passing Salalah and Ma'arah and terminating at the village of Tashah which for long had been considered hostile.

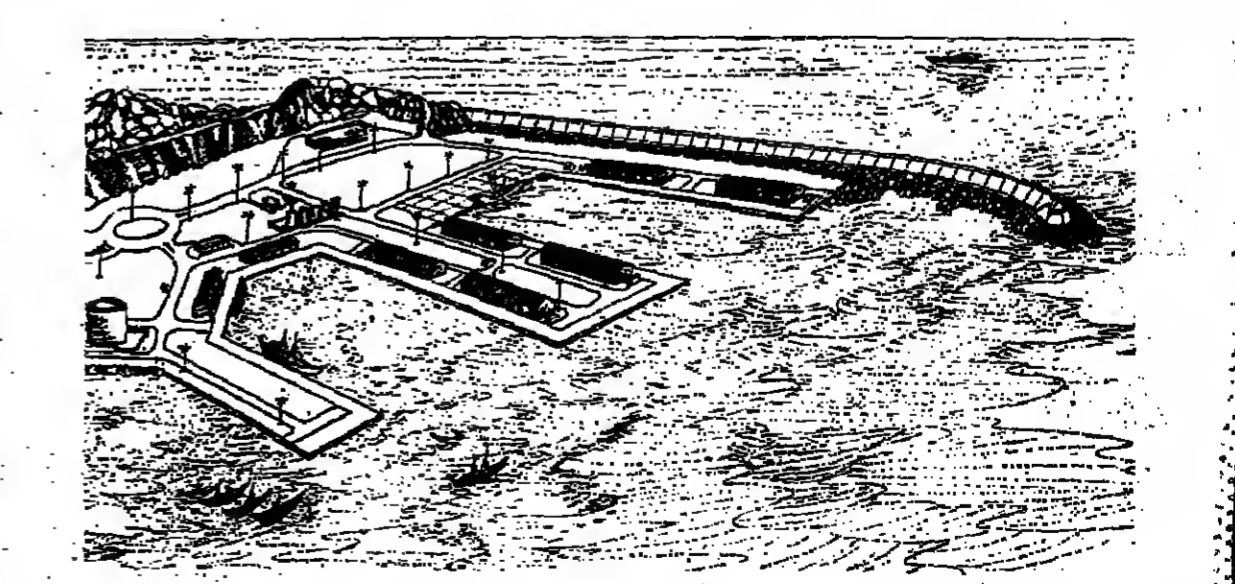
At the end of 1970, five months after Sultan Qaboos had taken over power, there were only 840 registered motor vehicles in Oman. By the end of 1973 the figure had increased to nearly 14,500, including more than 1,400 taxis and public service vehicles.

By the end of next year Oman will have a telecommunications system which will be superior to that of many developed countries for it will be composed of equipment all of the latest design, rather than having been built up over the years by improvisations and additions to obsolete material.

The main engineering contract, estimated to be worth £7m, has been awarded to the Swedish firm L. F. Ericsson after 12 tenders from five other countries had been evaluated.

The system will provide a new telephone network with push-button facilities for dialling and nearly 20 exchanges, most of which will be unmanned. The system will be able to handle all other forms of telecommunication: traffic, including public telegraphy, telefax, data transmission and television.

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Research in agriculture is resulting in improved seed strains and greater success in fighting pests and disease.

## Farm centres aid widespread changes

by Tim Owen

Until the end of 1967, when oil began to be produced, agriculture was the backbone of the Oman economy. Eighty per cent of the population was employed on the land, most of them smallholders owning a few hectares of land.

With the advent of the oil industry this proportion has remained almost unchanged. The production of oil employs relatively few people and most of these are skilled; only in the construction stage of the industry are many unskilled workers required, and in Oman for local reasons most of these are Beduins, not agriculturalists.

The lifespan of the oil industry is strictly limited, and particularly so in Oman where the proven reserves of oil are comparatively small. The Oman Government invests large sums from its oil revenues in the future of agriculture.

The climate and the nature of the land in Oman present agricultural with great problems. Much of the country consists of barren, rocky mountains, and of the remainder the great proportion is gravel plains and desert.

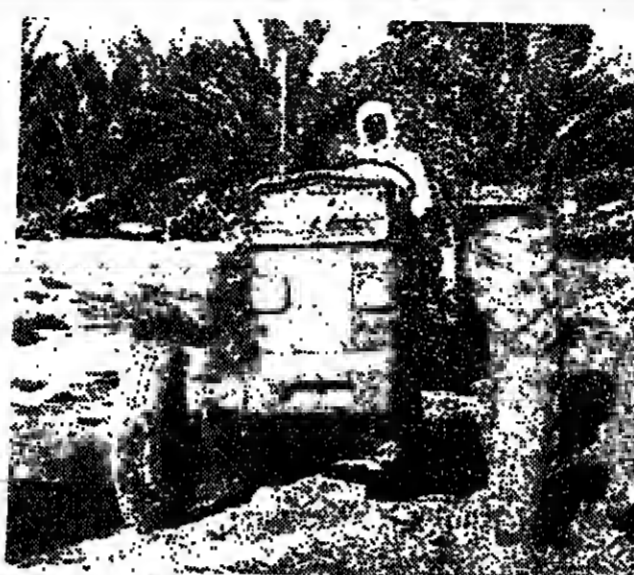
The rainfall is everywhere inadequate, irregular and extremely variable. Only over the mountains is there any considerable rainfall, and much of this falls in the form of heavy local storms, the waters of which run off uselessly down the wadis in sudden spates into the sea.

Agriculture is therefore entirely dependent on ground water, which is found mostly in the foot of the mountains and in the coastal areas of the Gulf of Oman. These underground reservoirs of water are greater than might be expected as most of the Hajar range of mountains are porous limestone.

The Omanis tap the underground reservoirs of water by well and by the *fajal* system. The date gardens of the Batinah coast are entirely dependent on well water for their irrigation. Here the water table is about 8ft below the surface and the farmers use small diesel engines for operating their pumps.

Salinity due to seepage of seawater is apt to present a problem at times, particularly in the case of sustained drought which is common. Date palms will tolerate a high degree of brackishness. But there is a limit to the tapping of underground reserves of water in the Dhufar province in the south, the only place in the Arabian peninsula where coconuts are grown.

The *fajal* system of irrigation is found among the valleys in the mountains and along the base of the foothills. It was introduced into Oman by the Persians many centuries ago. Water is tapped at springs or at the level of the water table and led



Farmers, like this one near Nazwa, can borrow equipment from the authorities.

by artificial underground channels to the villages and areas of cultivation, where it is brought to the surface and distributed by surface channels to the gardens according to a strict rota system.

The flow of water in the *fajals* is very consistent, varying little even in times of drought, and they rarely dry up. Irrigation by this system is often hacked up with well water.

Another problem is that where the supplies of land are most abundant along the Batinah coast the soil is sandy and of indifferent quality, whereas the best soil is found along the foot of the mountains where the unreliable and scarcer.

It is estimated that about 36,000 hectares of land are under cultivation. Dates are grown along the Batinah coast and in the foothills of the mountains account for 37 per cent of the country's agricultural output. The dates of the Batinah coast are of lesser quality than those of the interior, but ripen one month earlier.

Lucerne, a clover-like plant used for fodder, provides 15 per cent of output and each. The lucerne which are largely for export, are grown exclusively along the Batinah coast, mostly towards the northern end. Tobacco, bananas, pawpaws, mangoes and other citrus fruits are grown among the date gardens of the Batinah coast. Coconuts are grown exclusively around Salalah in Dhufar province in the south, the only place in the Arabian peninsula where coconuts are grown.

Wheat is grown in the winter months after good rains in the plains around Nazwa. On the high plateau of Jabal Akhdar fruits such as peaches, apricots, walnuts, figs and pomegranates are as fertilizer. The stench given off by these piles of drying fish is overwhelming. After the accession of Sultan Qaboos in 1970 a department of fisheries was set up within the Ministry of Development to study and develop a fisheries industry in the sultanate. Early in 1972 a project of far-reaching consequences was launched; Mardela International, of California, was given a \$2m contract to undertake all onshore and offshore research with a view to setting up such an industry. This was to include processing plants, preserving and canning facilities and a scheme to improve fishing techniques.

## Fish promises new source of profit

It has long been known that rich fishing grounds exist off the coast of the Sultanate of Oman, both in the Gulf of Oman and in the Indian Ocean. Until now these have not been exploited except by local fishermen, though fishing fleets from Japan and the Soviet Union have occasionally operated in the Gulf of Oman.

A curious feature of the local market has been that a tribe of Beduins, the Jenaba, have by tradition played a large part in it, bringing up dried fish from the south by camel to the populated areas of central Oman around Nazwa to trade for dates.

In the Gulf of Oman at certain seasons of the year great shoals of sardines come close inshore where they are netted and then put out in heaps along the shore to dry in the sun before being sold

pests, by supplying them with improved strains of seed, and advising them on better methods of cultivation. On a larger scale, aircraft are used for spraying the date gardens with pesticides in the fight against *matag*.

Dhufar has its own research station and government farms where the problems of stockbreeding and the cultivation of coconuts peculiar to the region are studied. The coconut palms of Dhufar are tall, making gathering of the coconuts difficult. So at one experimental farm a special shortened version of the coconut palm has been introduced from Malaysia.

The cattle of Dhufar are small and experiments are being conducted in interbreeding with larger strains, including Friesians, to improve the local strain. It is customary amongst the Jabal tribesmen to slaughter the bull calves. Now they are being encouraged to bring them into Salalah for purchase by the Government so that they can be reared for beef to meet the requirements of the province. At another experimental farm near Salalah research is being conducted into production of various grasses and fodder crops for dairy cattle.

In February, 1973, the Government signed an agreement with the American Farm Stock Marketing Corporation for a major agricultural development programme. This covers dates, citrus products, animal husbandry as well as a marketing survey, manpower training and management.

Two date demonstration farms are being established at Nazwa and Tanuf in the interior, as well as demonstration farms for citrus and Batinah vegetables on the Batinah coast and a multi-perennial farm at Nazwa and Sohar were converted into production farms. Soon afterwards another production farm was opened at Rumais to meet the acute fodder and vegetable shortage of the area of the opening of a further two experimental farms.

As a link between the experimental farms and the farmers, 19 agricultural extension centres have been opened throughout the country to pass on the results and benefits to the farmers. These centres have a most important part to play in the improvement of farming methods and the control and elimination of plant diseases.

Some of the most common endemic in Oman, such as *matag* which attacks the foliage of the date palms, eventually destroying the trees, weakening them so that they die. The extension centres help the farmers in fighting plant diseases and as well.

The final survey report, due to be published early next year, is the establishment of modern fish markets and cold storage facilities in Muscat, Matrah and Nazwa. Dhufar province, in the deep south, has the sultanate's richest fisheries potential. The inhabitants of the Kuria Muria islands, a barren group off the coast of Dhufar, have long made a living from the sea. Here the waters are particularly rich in sardines, and a canning industry is being planned. Ross of Bahrain and the Darwish organization are interested in regular purchases of the sardine catch.

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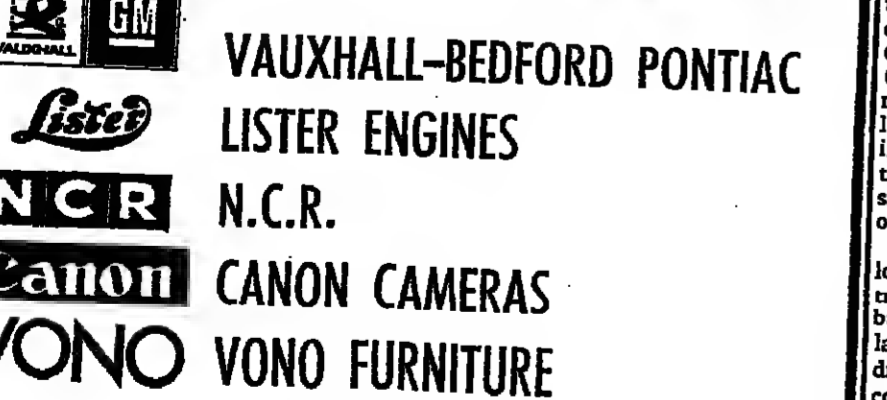
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# Museum traces cultural heritage from the Stone Age

...ions were organized from London, such as suitable and comprehensive photographic coverage of the whole country.

Conservation of the artefacts collected at the Muscat office of Mr Andrew Williamson, Director of Antiquities, was also organized from London with the help of the British Museum and the Horniman Museum, while the British Museum provided research and conservation work on a selection of Oman manuscripts.

The display opens with the first 10,000 years of Oman history, from the Stone Age through the first pottery and Bronze Age cultures of the fourth and third millennium BC. The most striking remains from the third millennium are the fine masonry tomb structures common in northern Oman, and only recently excavated. The links be-

tween this culture and comparable ones in the United Arab Emirates, southern Iraq and Mesopotamia of about 4,000 years ago are examined in the light of this new archaeological evidence, and carefully constructed models of these burials are on display.

A panel on the first millennium BC frankincense port of Khor Ruri in Dhufar follows. This was known to the Greeks as Moscha and was famed throughout the ancient world. Old South Arabian inscriptions remain there to this day. Next comes a pictorial montage of the strange and entertaining rock carvings of animals (some now extinct in Oman, such as the baboon) and warriors in which Oman is particularly rich.

The principal ground floor displays show the richness of Oman's agricultural and mineral resources and

the commerce which has sprung both from them and from Oman's geographical position, very strategic for the conduct of trade between the Gulf, India, the Far East and East Africa.

Oman's expanding horizons are shown historically, from the early copper trade with the Sumerians, through the frankincense trade, tenth century AD Sohar's trade with China, fourteenth century Qahat, culmination in the fruitful unification of coastal and interior Oman under the great Ya'aribah and al-Bu Said dynasties of the seventeenth to nineteenth centuries, a period of considerable influence and commercial prosperity. The parallel development of Muscat and the different Oman seagoing vessels are included as adjuncts to this historical display.

Upstairs the nature of

Oman's Islamic heritage is conveyed with an exhibition of the work of Oman historians and other literary figures. A pictorial comment on the dignified simplicity of Oman mosques leads into the architecture room in which the emphasis is laid on the design and decorative features of the great Ya'aribah fort in the interior at Jabrin, which is especially famous for the beauty of its painted ceilings.

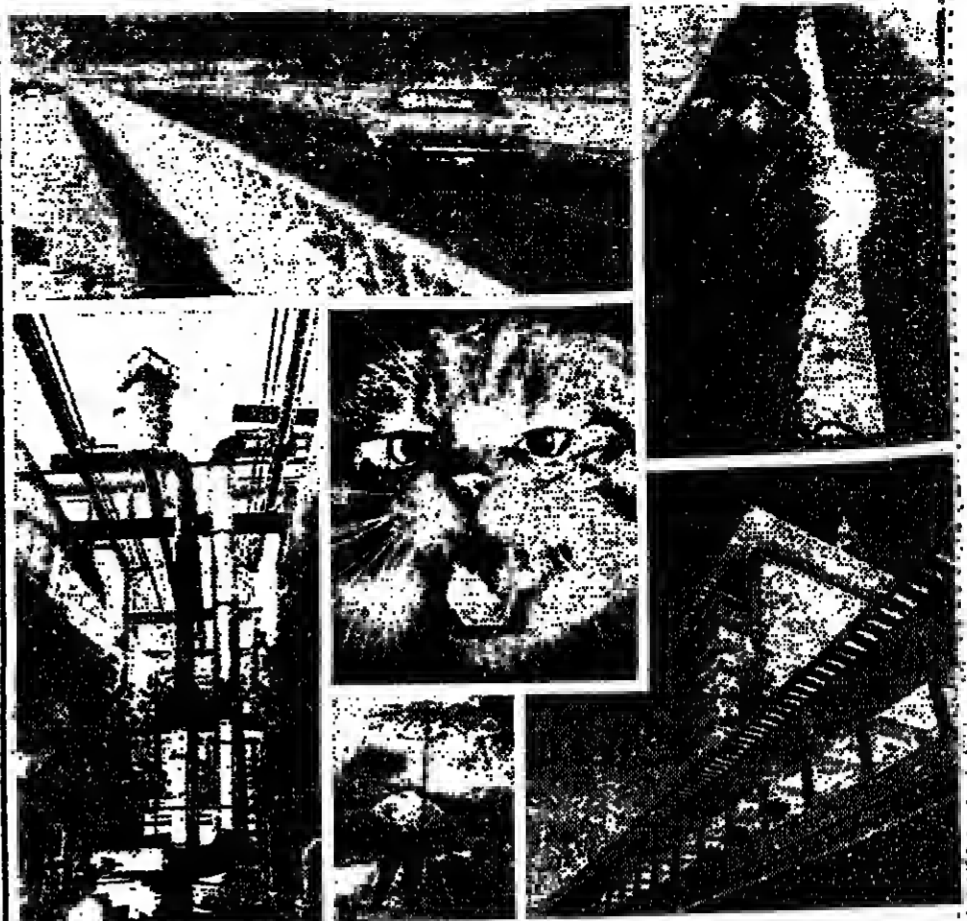
A large-scale programme of conservation work is soon to be started on Fort Jabrin, and with the help of initial reports on the state of the fort an accurate scale model was produced in London for this exhibition.

However, the main upstairs display space is devoted to the fine silver, gold and copper work, pottery, weaving and musical instruments of Oman. Oman silver work

is particularly famous and a large representative quantity of the best examples is on display.

Despite trying to give a comprehensive view of Oman's history and character, the museum had only limited space at its disposal and limited time in which to assemble the requisite exhibits and research. But the museum is only the forerunner of a much larger project, the Oman National Museum, which has already been allocated a site which includes one of Muscat's finest old houses. Completion of this ambitious project is expected to take three or four years, and it is hoped that the present Oman Museum provides a first step in its development.

The author is a research assistant and was involved in the planning and design stages of the Oman Museum.



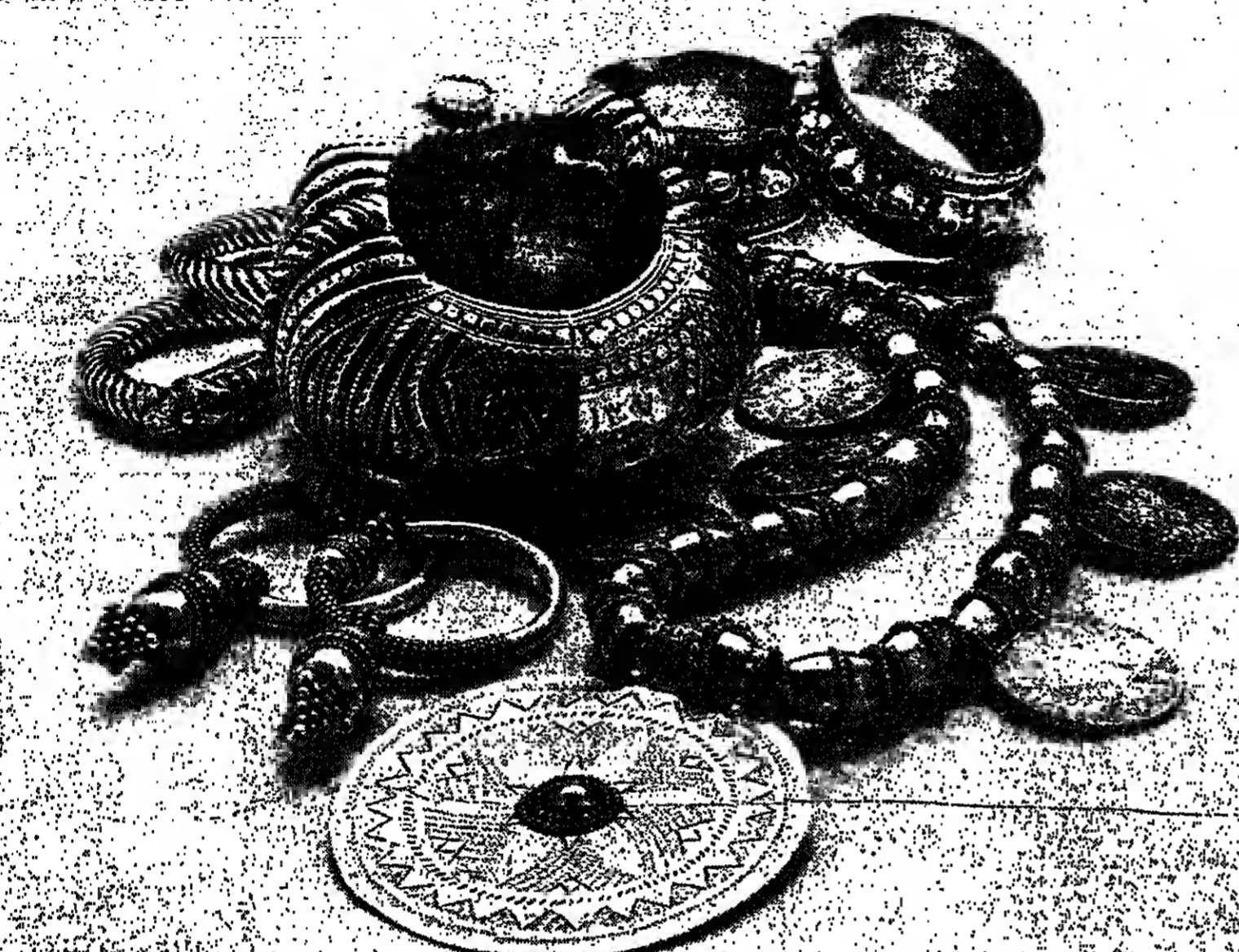
# al jewelry that shuns animal and human forms

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he principal f cost, how- e the work- redible in- rent market silver and and mys- nicated to t of dealers in the coast ist Macia aries little. are the of the jew- the same bler market he fruit and have torch batteries to ghts. us like fine ch used in rackets, car- phials for r eye make- scuring pat- lar riding Persian ined the rose often seen es on the in- which sec- fine mesh strands of



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hair-thin silver. Small bell sultanate has been open to foreign shoppers for so few years, the inference must be drawn that the value of Oman's old jewelry was thought to have been quickly apparent. Not that the silks have been drastically depleted of rings or pendants or hair ornaments; it is the concubines' anklets, fine silver chains and intricately intricate hair curlers that have begun to disappear.

Also, within the past year, the scarcity of Oman's distinctive *khanjars*, the daggers used as the centrepiece of the sultanate's emblem, has doubted the price of fine examples. Complete silver mesh webbing belts. Last year's best ones were selling for £70.

Apart from jewelry and other adornments, like daggers and the decorated triffles which these days are carried in much the same way as an Englishman's umbrella, the craftsmen of Oman have produced exceptional copperware. It is the silver which most collectors seek (and much of the gold jewelry has a basis of silver and has been dipped in gold) but old copper canisters, used to hold make-up and coins and, in these little pots, standing four to five inches in height, are as beautiful and as authentically accurate as the oldest, which have been preserved for the sultanate's museum collection. They cost about £16.

servicing of *hahwa* sweet-meats.

An unusual appreciation of new copies has been growing among the foreign community living in Oman. Miniature coffeepots purely for ornament, made today by the craftsmen of Nizwa, the acknowledged centre of metal crafts since ancient times, are as eagerly sought as the old ones. In finest silver and sometimes embellished with bands of gold, these little pots, standing four to five inches in height, are as beautiful and as authentically accurate as the oldest, which have been preserved for the sultanate's museum collection. They cost about £16.

Typical old Oman jewelry, famed for its silver and workmanship.

Oman's very old past included copper mining and there are also records of the import of precious metals. Today's craftsmen in Nizwa can be seen making use of a ready-made supply of copper from the radiators of wrecked vehicles. Both motoring and cars have a short history in Oman, travelling conditions and the inexperience of drivers ensuring a fairly steady supply of copper.

Photograph: Nigel Messon

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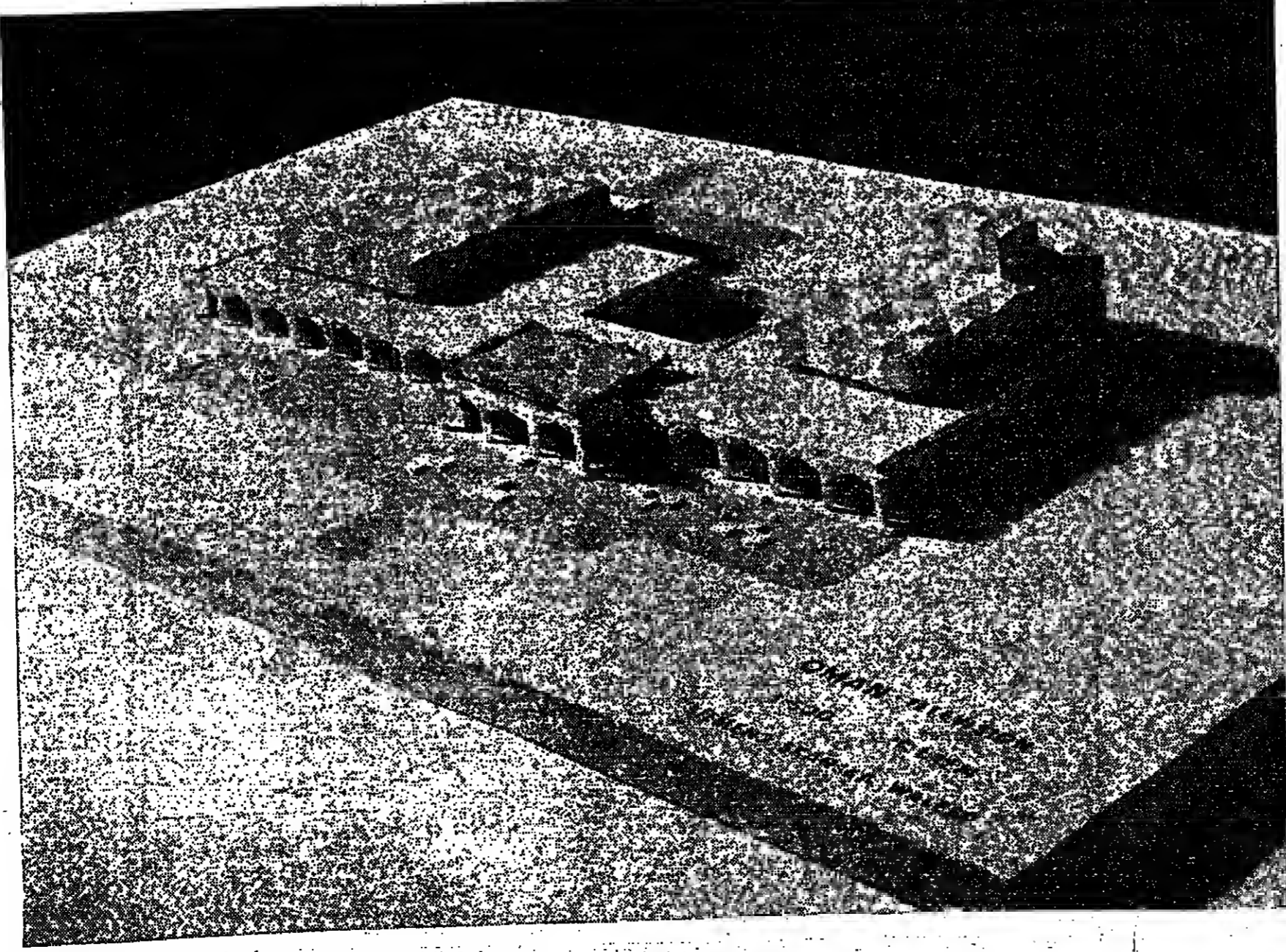
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## New television service a window on world

by Norma Ashworth

Television comes to Oman today, a precocious new arrival on a scene which until two years ago had no cinema and still has no other form of public entertainment.

Houses in the capital area of Muscat will be able to receive the full-colour images of Sultan Qaboos's fourth National Day celebrations, and neighbouring countries in the Gulf will have to accept that Oman has taken yet another short-cut in learning the ways of the rest of the world. Even a year ago it was not considered that Oman could add television to an already impressive list of achievements, but the Sultan announced in December that he was inviting tenders for the contract and would expect the service to be ready before the end of the year.

Competition for that contract was both keen and anxious when it was realized that, from scratch, the service would have to be completed in nine months, a significant gestation period for a true new-born. The time usually taken to set up a fully-operative colour television service is nearer three years and Oman, with its minimal facilities, would have no advantages of either experienced engineers or trial test sites.

Five firms, competed for the contract which was awarded to Siemens AG of West Germany, to set up the initial service in the capital area. Philips NV, of The Netherlands, which had done a survey in 1972 of the possibilities of television in the sultanate and were strong contenders for hand-

ling the complete coverage, were given the contract for Dhofar. This service, which will be centred on Salalah, is due for completion exactly one year from today.

Wider coverage beyond the capital and Dhofar has not so far been considered. Until there are far-reaching electricity services and before the more essential provisions of roads and houses can raise the basic standards of living of the people in the interior, television will remain the dazzling toy of only about 2,000 people. Television receiving sets have been in the Muscat and Marat shops for more than two years and a large number of inhabitants of the coast have had their aerials up for quite a long time. According to reports, when conditions are favourable (unaccustomed humidity is a helpful factor), signals from Iran and Pakistan come through, complete with sound.

The cost of Muscat region service is about £5,625,000, representing the value of essential equipment. The Dhofar operation will be more costly (at £8,038,879) but has been eased by an offer from Philips to make a gift of equipment valued at £16,000. It has also included the services free for one year of an engineer who will work at Salalah and help with the training of technicians.

There was much conjecture over the system which Oman would adopt before the announcement that the contract had been given to Siemens and the German-British system PAL would be used. The Gulf States conference in February last year had debated

the merits of PAL, SECAM and NTCS and favoured PAL for technical and climatic reasons.

The Ministry of Information and Tourism will have sole authority for the service but the possibility of later commercial participation has not been ruled out. Transmission time is likely to be up to 30 hours a week, including possibly six hours each Friday, the Islamic day of rest and religious observance. Documentary and feature films from other Arabic-speaking countries will make up a large part of the programmes, apart from the live outside broadcasts and news-reading from the studios. There is as yet little enthusiasm for including foreign feature films.

The viewing public will well feel differently about the importance of the country's only three public cinemas keeps growing week by week, whether the film has changed or not. Before the opening of Oman's first cinema in Marat two years ago, only open-air screening for their sports arena on the hills above the hill camp at Mina al Fahal. It is not uncommon for taxi-loads of passengers to arrive several hours before dark to get places outside the fence so that they can watch the film.

At the new cinemas, it did not take long for a black market in tickets to flourish. People travelling

long distances and finding the show sold out will pay double for a ticket from the Rex, the country's only air-conditioned cinema with modern equipment, cost £1.25. Among these are the curtained-off areas for women at the back of the auditorium.

A special feature of the programme when the Rex opened last April was the first public showing of part of Oman's own documentary film, *Oman since July 1970*, made by members of the photographic department of the Ministry of Information and Tourism.

Today's big event, the colour television view of the celebrations, is said to have had a test run three days ago, when the studio complex was linked up for transmission trials over the selected area (roughly an arc of 30 miles). At the same time, radio was given a further boost of power after the inauguration of two 50kW transmitters, one medium and one short wave, installed at a new transmitting station at Seeb. Philips NV is strengthening Oman's radio transmission power to cover the entire country, the Gulf States, southern Arabia and neighbouring countries. A 100kW medium-wave transmitter will be added to the network and a 10kW transmitter was recently installed at Salalah.

In preparation for the expected popularity of television, a large order for receiving sets was placed with Eye of Cambridge last July. Two thousand colour and monochrome sets are to be delivered within 12 months.

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## No entry for curious tourists...

The oil crisis has focused the world's attention on the Arabian Peninsula where the principal emotions are the principal emotions of their riches inspire. It is an atmosphere likely to obscure the fact that the countries—states, emirates and a sultanate on the Arabian Gulf are not separate communities of diverse people, of vastly differing fortunes and ambitions.

The Sultanate of Oman is the least known of all, having been cloistered for centuries in a highly closed society, the influence of the western world. To its richer neighbours, Oman is a backward newcomer to the twentieth century almost the last vestige of a pre-modern society.

To the foreigner, the same qualities and drawbacks give it a charm unmatched elsewhere in the Middle East. Any writer of tourist brochures would find in it the realization of all the over-worked terms used to describe other so-called unspoilt and mysterious countries.

So far, no such document as a tourist brochure exists for Oman. It is a country entirely without tourists, where the only visitors are sponsored and all the resident foreigners are permitted to live there because of their work. The expatriate community can be numbered in several thousands, all of them with controlled conditions of work and residence permits and only short-term visas.

Nobody "drops in" on Oman and is given permission to stay. There is a complicated system of applying for no-objection certificates, either through Oman's embassies abroad or by relatives living in Oman. Without that certificate, there is little chance of being allowed to remain longer than it takes to catch the next flight out.

The reasons for such strict control are clear. There are few facilities for travellers and only three hotels and two guest houses in the country. A system of roads is growing but beyond the more settled areas of the coast travel is difficult and shelter scarce.

Also, Oman has had a turbulent history and only four years of political stability. The need for surveillance with reference to unwelcome infiltration is likely to continue while the rebel warfare in Dhofar attracts outside interest and occasional interference.

Nevertheless, the Government is alert to the possibilities of tourism and has sought the advice of planners and developers from Europe in working out a scheme for the future. Nobody doubts the incomparable visual charm of the country with its towering mountains, desert scenery and villages watered by the ancient irrigation systems of Oman.

Near neighbours in the flat, sandy areas of places like Dubai, Qatar and Bahrain, for all their advancement have a distinct sense of envy when contemplating the mysterious, orderly and mysterious country of Oman.

The architecture of successive invaders and settlers (Persians and Portuguese, in particular) is well matched to the natural beauty of the mountain landscape and is in a good state of preservation.

Muscat's only hotel of international standard, the Al Falaj, is being extended by the addition of a tower block of nine storeys (Oman's tallest building) and by the early part of 1975 will have 158 bedrooms ready.

The Gulf Hotel at Qurum, roughly equidistant from the capital and Seeb, the international airport, is due for completion by the middle of next year. The International Hotel at Qurum, the biggest hotel project (at a cost of \$1m) which was expected to open next year but now has a 1976 completion date.

These three hotels offering luxurious accommodation will open the door to tourists but a little wider, but the design plan in all of them shows a far higher number of single rooms than is usual in resort hotels. It was considered essential to give priority to short-visit tourists.

men and government may prove, the depredations of large numbers of travellers in largely unprotected archaeological sites and un-restored ancient buildings could be disastrous. Besides, there is scant provision so far for souvenirs of genuine Oman origin or the entertainment of tourists.

There are plans to develop a national park area, where the few rare specimens of Oman wildlife and vegetation can be both protected and exhibited. One of the newest advisory departments created by the Government is that for the preservation and development of the rural environment. The time will come when the tourists will be welcome. Meanwhile, protecting the country's unspoilt image is of greater importance.

... but some did get in

It is said that a lone tourist visited Muscat recently, and there are rumours that unscrupulous travel agents have sold tickets in Europe and issued no warnings that they will entitle one to visit Seeb international airport and not a step further.

The counter staff at airports in the countries which have had to take the disappointed travellers back to places such as Bahrain, Beirut and Dubai—now ask to see visas for Oman.

Travellers without visas, who are expected to have their no-objection certificates awaiting for them in Muscat (which is the usual procedure), have had to produce evidence that if they are not allowed in, they will be able to pay for a ticket to somewhere else—anywhere else.

Eighteen months ago, a privately organized package deal was turned up in Muscat after negotiations had been carried out for several weeks in Dubai. The party of 20, all women and mostly Americans, the wives of businessmen working in Dubai, spent three days at the Al Falaj Hotel and hired taxis

for their sightseeing—a combination of expense which prompted the comment from one that she had just travelled to London and back for not much more.

The latest group of sight-seers to have the rare opportunity of spending two hours outside the confines of the airport were Lockheed and Rolls-Royce technicians who travelled with the L-1011 TriStar on its Gulf tour after the Farnborough Air Show. They surrendered their passports to the airport police and were taken by Government bus on a tour of the capital.

The saddest tourists who have visited Oman in recent years have been innocent Muslims making the journey from Pakistan to Mecca. The word has not yet spread far enough to warn each year's batch of pilgrims that the dhow trip for which they have paid a great sum will end on Oman's southern coastline. Each year, some are found wandering in some distress, having been assured when they were put ashore that Mecca was just over the next ridge of hills.

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## Alas! poor oryx... where be your gambols now?

by Julian Paxton

The desert of south Oman is the only part of the Arabian Peninsula where the oryx (*Oryx leucorox*) still survives in its natural environment; but in the past 10 years they have been driven into remote and inaccessible areas unexplored by man. Fortunately this rare species of antelope has been saved from extinction and is now bred in captivity, not only in Qatar, where they once roamed wild, but also in the United States in the not dissimilar conditions and surroundings of Arizona.

In these private collections where the oryx are well cared for and fed on lucerne and barley, as well as being supplied with salt, they can be observed at close quarters and much interesting information has been collected about their habits and way of life.

The herd in Qatar now numbers 30 or more animals bred from a nucleus of three oryx captured in the Empty Quarter in 1964. In the desert the oryx have been sighted only individually or in small groups, and it is probable that they do not produce so many young in the desert as they do in captivity, where their breeding has been remarkably successful. The oryx in captivity is quiet and docile, has little or no fear of man and can be approached without difficulty.

In the Arabic language, oryx are described as wild cattle and indeed they are sturdy, cloven-footed beasts, with none of the delicate points of their dainty cousin the gazelle and without the majesty and elegance of the horse. At birth they are sandy brown and only on reaching maturity do they acquire their white coat, distinctive black bead markings and scythe-like horns, tapering to needle points and eventually growing to about 2ft in length. When the oryx is seen in profile it appears to have only one horn which has caused speculation about this breed being the origin of myth and legend.

The male oryx uses his horns for butting and fighting during the mating season. When an animal is killed, the Bedu will use the horns to make primitive traps or cradles for camels and saddles. Although known elsewhere in the Arab world as *maha* or *wadhahi*, in Oman the oryx is invariably referred to as *bin saud*, a nickname apparently derived from the bulk and weight of the animal which may be as much as 200lb.

In its wild state the oryx is shy and extremely difficult to approach, as it seems to possess a keen sense of imminent danger. Unlike the gazelle, it cannot twist and turn in leaps and bounds to escape pursuit. Its chances of escape from a hunter are fairly good until the coming of the motor vehicle.

Well organized hunting parties equipped with radio communications, automatic weapons and desert vehicles elsewhere in Arabia or have forced them to take refuge in the remote areas of Oman. On occasions such hunting parties have appeared in Oman without the permission of the Government, which has always discouraged them. Only recently the Ministry of the Interior and Justice reiterated the total ban on hunting and urged the Wala to punish offenders.

Unfortunately the area is vast, the frontiers ill-defined and the likelihood of catching offenders remote. The Sultan's armed forces have been preoccupied with nether game in Dhofar, but a few years ago units returning north after their tour of duty at the front bumped into a party of some 40 vehicles, which it promptly escorted to the border.

To the Bedu the oryx or any other game means food and he is not concerned with conservation of the species. In the harsh and hostile environment of the desert, he fights a continual battle for survival and is easily tempted with money or rifles and ammunition to betray the presence of the oryx.

It is not fair to blame the hunter alone for the gradual disappearance of the species. The pattern of life in Arabia has changed dramatically in

the past few years, not only for the people but for the wild life as well, because of the development and progress made possible by the income from oil. Oman is rapidly catching up with the other Gulf states in material terms and is no longer the haven that it was; both man and beast are caught up in the evolution of the twentieth century.

In the early days of oil exploration, which for Oman was only 20 years ago, traces and sightings of oryx were noted in areas that are now dotted with drilling locations, traversed by graded roads and frequently visited by man. These intrusions have disturbed the pattern of movement for the oryx and have probably driven them to areas where food is sparse and starvation a possibility.

The cool season in South Oman brings the desert to life and the dry, waterless Harasis is covered in vegetation. The Bedu still bring their camels to graze; but many of them now have their own vehicles or work for an oil company and no longer hunt the game which used to abound there.

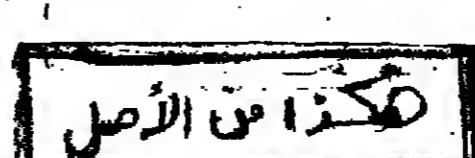
Help with the pictorial preparation of this Special Report was given by the Government of Oman, John Lawrence, Michael Rice and Company, Henk Snook, Barbara Wace.

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# Oman

سلطنة عمان



a Special Report to mark  
National Day and  
the thirty-fourth birthday  
of Sultan Qaboos

## New wealth brings country out of Middle Ages

The Sultanate of Oman has stepped almost overnight out of the medieval world into the twentieth century. Peter Hopkirk explains how this has been achieved after the discovery of oil and the accession of a young and energetic ruler

Only four years ago Oman was one of the least known and most mysterious of the Middle Ages, and few western travellers had been allowed to penetrate the interior. Under the eccentric and oppressive rule of Sultan Said bin Taimur, Oman remained totally cut off from the main stream of material progress and liberal thought. Three times the size of Britain, it belonged neither to the United Nations nor the Arab League, and had no diplomatic representation anywhere.

Like Rip van Winkle, it slumbered while the rest of the world moved on. Then, on July 23, 1970, Oman suddenly awoke from its long sleep. To a bloodless coup the old Sultan was overthrown by his only son Qaboos, aged 29, whom he had kept a virtual prisoner in the royal palace at Salalah in the far south. Within hours the deposed ruler had been bundled, protesting, on board an RAF aircraft bound for London where, until his death two years ago, he lived in exile in a suite at the Dorchester. In a first message to his people over a secretly installed radio station, the new Sultan declared: "I daily, and now the interior, is being chivvied into the twentieth century. Soon just a

few gems of ancient Oman architecture will be all that is left of the old order.

Four years ago Oman had no newspapers or radio stations, only three schools for its 600,000 or so inhabitants, and five miles of surfaced road. There was one doctor for every 18,000 people. To get their children educated parents had to smuggle them out of the country.

Every night at sunset the great gates of Muscat were closed, and anyone who left his home after dark had to carry a lantern. Smoking was outlawed, as were sunglasses.

The building of new houses was rigidly controlled, and the repair of old ones was forbidden, on the argument that if they crumbled it must be God's will. The beautiful but bulky Maria Theresa silver dollar was still in circulation. Until 1971 Oman had never had a budget.

Despite the discovery of oil in 1964 the Omanis continued to be among the world's poorest people, scratching a living from dates and limes and from the sea. To ensure that his people obeyed his edicts, the old Sultan used to spy on them with binoculars through two peep-holes specially drilled in the palace wall.

Today Oman has more than a hundred schools, a dozen banks, modern hospitals and health centres, low-cost housing schemes, air-conditioned office blocks, a new museum, new sports stadium, experimental farms, and now even colour television. Its air force is to be equipped with Britain's latest strike aircraft, the

Jaguar, as well as the Rapier air defence system. For apart from the war in the south, Oman guards the entrance to the Gulf.

Air-conditioned limousines race along its fine new highways, while the number of vehicles in the country has soared from a mere 800 in 1970 to 15,000 today. An endless flow of businessmen and bankers, technicians and salesmen, come and go through Oman's international airport, now a year old and handling 10,000 passengers a month.

Such is the interest in this fast-moving country that foreign visitors from a score of countries are willing to sleep two or three to a room in Muscat's only two hotels (a third is to open shortly) to gain a toe-hold there.

At present almost everything has to be imported, and goods pour into Oman through the fine new deep water harbour, named after the Sultan, at Matrah. Although there is still little industrial activity in Oman, except for the manufacture of the characteristic silver jewelry, this will soon change. A large cement plant, which it is hoped will eventually produce 600,000 tons a year, is scheduled to open in 1976. Such is the demand for cement that it has even been flown in for use in high priority tasks.

There are also plans to set up smaller factories to produce such things as furniture, floor tiles, soft drinks and canned foods. Promising deposits of copper, moreover, have been

found in northern Oman, and its commercial exploitation appears likely. Prospects for the mining of chromite and manganese also look good.

But oil, which is piped from the edge of the Empty Quarter to the coast, is the miracle worker, bringing in £1.5m a day. It is this that has enabled Oman, in the space of four short years, to leap from the sixteenth century into the twentieth. The successive oil price rises in the past year or so have come as a windfall to Oman, which speeds its revenue to the bit, and does not suffer, like some other Arab oil producers, from a surfeit of money.

Modest by comparison with the revenue of the other Gulf oil states, Oman's income is none the less sufficient to finance all that the sultanate, with its modest population, can take on at present. Like its neighbours in the Gulf, Oman has to rely heavily on mercenary labour to carry through its programme. Indeed, Oman's biggest single problem today is its manpower shortage. This is in spite of the return of many educated Omanis from abroad since the coup, and the arrival of thousands of skilled men and women of Oman descent from Zanzibar, once part of Oman's nineteenth-century empire.

Another problem is that of evolving an efficient structure of government, both central and local. The present system is a mixture of twentieth-century Whitehall and the traditional tribal system of administration. Such inevitable issues as elections, trade unions and women's lib still lie far off. However, other immediate problems have to be faced.

Inflation is one of these, and some visitors claim that Oman is the most expensive country in the world. Another is the drain on the economy of the war against the insurgents in the Dhufar mountains. But despite this, four times more is being spent on development than last year, and the war is gradually consuming less of the nation's resources as the tide turns in favour of the Government forces. In 1973 more was still being spent on defence than development. However, this year the speeding pattern has been reversed. Much of the defence spending, moreover, goes towards providing a permanent infrastructure in the war area.

After a century of neglect, decades of work still lie ahead for Oman, particularly in the interior. Although now a member of the United Nations and the Arab League, with embassies in a dozen or more countries, Oman is still a little-known land to the world outside. It is still difficult to visit, for Oman is not yet ready for tourists.

Yet of all the countries in the Gulf region, with the exception of Iran, Oman possesses by far the greatest tourist potential with its beaches and mountains. It also has some magnificent domestic architecture although, in the rush to modernize, much of this is vanishing for ever beneath the grinding bulldozers.

The best examples are being deliberately preserved, but inevitably Muscat and the other Oman towns must lose their enchanting character and end up like everywhere else.

Oman's southern desert still harbours the last of the wild oryx—to some the uni-

corn of legend—and this too will draw tourists if it is successfully preserved. But other countries in the region, like Kenya and Tanzania, also offer the attractions of wildlife. Oman's picturesque architecture, however, is unique, and if this disappears then it will have lost one of its brightest jewels.

A sad little footnote to Oman's great leap forward is the fact that shortly before his downfall the old Sultan had made up his mind to introduce some changes.

A succession of officials from Whitehall had visited him at Salalah, begging him to do something. But the Sultan, who understood the British better than most, would not turn the subject around to cricket. Eventually, however, he gave way. Plans were prepared for a number of projects, including a hospital for Muscat. But already the writing was on the wall for the old Sultan. After 38 years of rule, he had moved too slowly and too late.

## Britain's oldest friend on Arabian peninsula

Temperatures of 120°F have been recorded at midnight in the old walled capital of Muscat, and the first four British Residents appointed there died from the effects of the climate. Their habit of wrapping themselves in wet sheets and sleeping on the residency roof to escape the heat may have had something to do with it, though more likely it was malaria that killed them.

Before the days of air-conditioning the summer heat must have been appalling, with daytime temperatures in the mid-130s. Indeed, a Persian poet wrote: "To the panting sinner Muscat gives a living foretaste of his future destiny."

The traveller Theodore Bent, visiting Muscat in the 1880s, described it as the hottest place on earth. The heat, now made acceptable by air-conditioning, is engendered in a vast rock bowl in which the town stands. This absorbs the sun's energy during the day, breathing it out after dark like a huge night-storage heater.

But Muscat's awesome reputation did nothing to deter a succession of intrepid British officials from following in the footsteps of their dead colleagues. Since the beginning of the nineteenth century an almost unbroken line of British representatives has resided there, culminating in the present—and first ambassador, Mr Donald Hawley.

Oman, which today celebrates its National Day, is Britain's oldest friend on the Arabian peninsula—a special relationship dating back 175 years to when the first treaty between the two powers was signed.

The result of British fears about Napoleon's intentions towards India, the agreement expressed the hope that the friendship "may remain unshook to the end of time and till the sun and moon have finished in their revolving career". Signed in 1800 by Captain John Malcolm, it also provided for "an Englishman of respectability" to reside permanently in Muscat.

This ancient friendship, apart from occasional inter-ructions, has continued to this day. The links are not only economic and political but also strongly personal. The present Sultan, Qaboos bin Said, was educated at Sandhurst and served for a time in Germany with the Camerounians. Before this he spent two years living with the family of an English clergyman. For a while he studied local government in Britain.

Today, some 500 British officers and ncos are seconded or individually contracted to the Sultan's armed forces. Economic and technical advisers from Britain are also closely involved in Oman's success story.

Trade links which date from the seventeenth century are still close between the

two Governments. Britain sells Oman more goods than any other country, although Japan and others are trying hard to replace it. Until Oman joined the United Nations after the 1970 coup its interests there were looked after by Britain, which also represented Oman on a number of other international bodies.

Visitors from Britain over the years have always taken warmly to the Omanis, if not to their summer climate. James Silk Buckingham who went to Muscat in 1816 found the Omanis "the most gentlemanly of all the Arabs that I have yet ever seen".

Curzon, writing in the 1890s, describes Muscat as "probably one of the most

picturesque places in the world". But he gave warning that "in the bests between June and August the ordinary thermometer bursts. . . . Those graded high enough have placed the solar radiation at 189°F" (presumably in the sun's direct rays).

James Wellsted, who tried to blow out his brains there in a delirium brought on by fever, found the women of Oman "so personal attraction superior to any class which I have seen in Arabia". More recently a senior Arab diplomat called the Omanis "the nicest of the Arabs". Most westerners living in Oman have a great affection for the country and its people.

The same Oman means "peaceful land", which is misleading. In the fourteenth century the great Arab traveller Ibn Battuta found the people "very warlike. . . always fighting among themselves". There have been few periods in Oman's history—even today—when a struggle of some kind was not going on, and most of the towns and villages of the interior are still fortified.

Small as it is, Muscat has always been somewhat larger than life. Theodore Bent relates how, in the 1880s, the Sultan kept in his palace a caged lion. Next to this was an empty cage into which first-time criminals were placed. On a second conviction they were put in with the lion.

When Curzon was there he saw "a miserable woman" in the empty cage who had, he was informed, committed a murder. He was relieved to learn that she would not end up with the lion. But to this day crime is not a serious problem in Oman.

Some early visitors tried even to improve on reality. Abdur Kuzak, writing in May 1442, declared that the heat was "so intense that the sword in its scabbard melted like wax and the gems which adorned the bangle of the dagger were reduced to coal"

continued on page 11

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DEP	09.30	09.30	19.45	09.30	09.30	19.45	09.30
7 TO BEIRUT	ARR	16.15	16.15	16.15	16.15	16.15	16.15
5 TO BAHRAIN	ARR	20.20	05.05 WED	20.20	05.05 FRI	20.20	
5 TO DOHA	ARR	20.30		20.30	20.30	05.15 SUN	20.30
5 TO ABUDHABI	ARR	23.10	23.05		08.00 FRI	23.10	08.00 SUN
5 TO DUBAI	ARR		08.00 WED	23.10	23.10	23.10	23.10
7 TO MUSCAT	ARR	00.40 WED	09.30 WED	00.55 FRI	09.35 FRI	00.55 SAT	09.35 SUN

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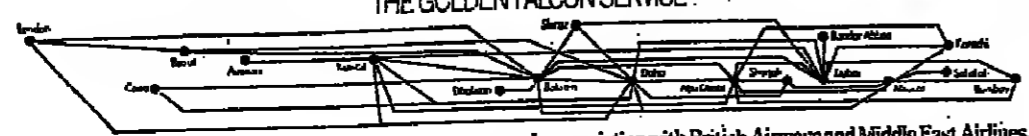
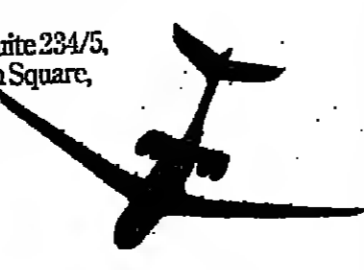
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# Ambitious projects mark arrival of heavy industry

by Ralph Izzard

Oman's economic prospects have been transformed by the dramatic increases in world oil prices. Receipts from Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) were about 50m rials in 1972 and just over 60m rials in 1973. The budgeted figure for this year was 212m rials. Total revenues for 1974 were budgeted at 220m rials, emphasizing the importance of oil. Expenditure had been set at 201m rials, leaving a surplus of 19m rials.

Although no figure has been published yet, oil revenues this year are likely to be about 300m rials after an agreement reached on July 17 by which the Government acquired a 90 per cent interest in PDO which produces all the state's output of 295,000 barrels a day. After struggling to make ends meet over the past four years, the Government is now in an enviable position.

An initial par value for the Oman rial was established with the International Monetary Fund on July 4 at 0.416667 rials to the dollar. The Government is now using wider margins but has undertaken not to impose restrictions on current payments or impose multiple exchange rates without the approval of the fund.

Under a recent agreement, Oman is to make a loan of \$30m to the World Bank. The loan will carry an interest rate of 8 per cent a year payable half-yearly and will be repaid in three instalments of \$10m each. Proceeds will be used in the World Bank's general operations.

Whereas there was only one commercial bank in Oman until 1968, there are now 10 and further licences are under consideration. The drafting of banking laws is expected to start shortly and there are plans to have a central bank in operation by the end of next year.

## Priority to social service body

When Sultan Qaboos assumed power in 1970, priority was given to creating an administrative and social services organization, industrial development and the war against guerrillas in Dhufar province.

Over the years defence expenditure has been partially obscured for security reasons and also because many of the facilities created primarily for military purposes will serve essential civilian needs in peacetime. Defence expenditure in 1972 was estimated at 27.3m rials and in 1973 at 41.8m rials. This year 58.5m rials had been budgeted for but with the country's huge increase in revenues this figure will be greatly exceeded.

Oman is to spend \$83m on new aircraft and missile systems shown at Britain's Farnborough Air Show. Twelve of the new Anglo-French Jaguar fighter-bombers are to be bought at a cost of \$36m. A second order is for a Rapier low-level air defence network, priced by British Aircraft Corporation at \$47m.

Oman also plans to order four more fast patrol boats, mounted with 40mm Bofors guns and capable of 30 knots. Three are already in service along the Oman coast. Three new, small naval bases are also planned.

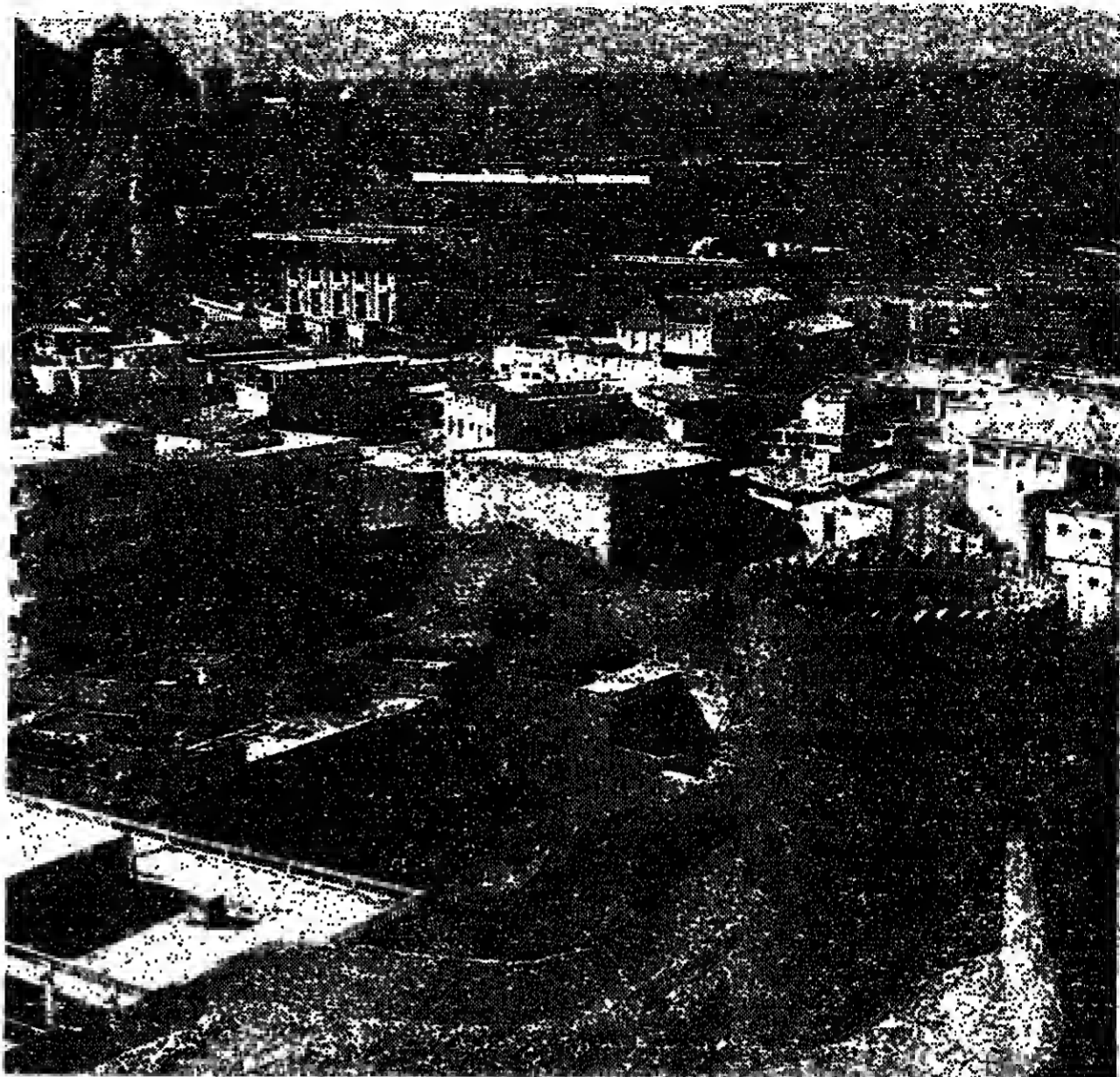
Oman has hitherto had no heavy industry but in September it was announced that French and Italian companies will start work early next year on two big projects to exploit Oman's natural gas resources. The two projects together will cost \$500m.

Gazocéan of France is to build a fertilizer plant which will be fed by a 200-mile pipeline from the gas fields. Planned output is 2,000 tons of ammonia and urea per day. The pipeline will eventually fuel a major new seawater desalination plant and electricity generating station. The American company, Tesoro Petroleum, will build a gas liquefaction plant supplied with associated gas from PDO's existing oil fields, nearly 180 miles south-west of Muscat.

## Cement plant under way

Another major industrial project already under way is a cement plant due for completion in 1976. With the Government as the main shareholder, the plant will produce 650,000 tons annually, of which 400,000 tons will be for domestic use. The latest industrial project to be announced is the country's first flour mill. This is to be built near Matrah at a cost of 2,500,000 rials. The Government will have a 20 per cent shareholding and the remaining 80 per cent is to be offered to Oman nationals. The mill will produce 150 tons daily and is expected to be ready by March, 1976.

In 1973 Oman's total imports were valued at 40,700,000 rials, an increase of 117 per cent on the previous year. Principal imports continued to be machinery and parts, cement and other building materials, electrical appliances, foodstuffs and textiles. The Arabian states have



Scaffolding surrounds the Sultan's palace in the shadow of ancient fortifications in the city of Muscat.

replaced the United Kingdom as the principal supplier, although their contribution is largely of re-exports. Last year Arabian exports to Oman totalled 30m rials and exports from the United Kingdom 7,700,000 rials. Exports from Oman are, of course, entirely dominated by oil, but last year non-oil exports expanded considerably to 609,000 rials from 325,000 rials in 1972. Principal exports are dry and fresh limes, dry dates, fresh dates and tobacco.

About 80 per cent of Oman's population of about 600,000 remains engaged in agriculture, animal husbandry and fishing. Excluding Dhufar, about 90,000 acres are under cultivation out of the country's 120,000 sq miles. Agriculture is mainly on the narrow fertile Batinah Plain, in the oases of the interior and in Dhufar. Dates, limes, lucerne and onions are the main crops on the Batinah and in the interior, while coconuts, bananas, fruits and vegetables are grown in Dhufar. Dhufar is particularly suitable for animal husbandry and special efforts are being made to import heavier beef breeds in cross with local stock.

Research teams have been cooperating for two years with the Ministry of Development in preparing a general survey of crops, soils and water resources to provide a comprehensive agricultural strategy. Two research centres were established in 1971 with soil and water laboratories. Two experimental farms are studying the suitability of crop varieties for local conditions. Sixteen agricultural stations have been set up to provide technical aid to farmers and sell fertilizers and seeds at low cost.

Water is less of a problem in Dhufar for the province receives the extremity of the Indian Ocean summer monsoon rains. But urgent research is required further north. Rainfall is unpredictable; very little fell last year. When it comes it can be

very heavy but it falls mainly in the mountains with about 90 per cent running straight off to the sea. Only about 10 per cent is left to seep down to the water table beneath the gravel forming the plain.

An area of 17,000 sq kilometres surrounding and north of Muscat is now being researched by Sir Alexander Gibb and Partners working with Geoprosco International, a drilling company based near Leamington Spa, in order to determine what amount of water lies underground, what can be safely drawn off and then in what it can best be economically allocated. The provision of sufficient water to the rapidly growing urban districts of Muscat and Matrah is one pressing need.

When the survey is finished an attempt will be made to manipulate the floodwaters so that they can be dispersed over a far wider

area and thus augment underground supplies. It is not the sort of country where large dam schemes can be usefully applied.

A survey of fish resources along Oman's 1,000 miles of coastline, prepared for the Ministry of Development by a consortium of three American companies, has just been completed after a two-year study and is most encouraging.

First results can already be seen at Suhar, in the extreme north, where an ice factory and cold store for the handling and processing of fish began operations this year and has opened up a market for dried and salted fish for which the demand throughout the country vastly exceeds the supply. Under expert direction, the fish catch off Suhar has increased tenfold.

The Government has recently established a Department for Fisheries to promote

development of the fish industry off Dhufar where surveys have shown abundant and constant supplies. An ice factory, storage facilities and marine workshop to service fishing vessels are now under construction at Salalah.

Sardines are also plentiful further north off the ancient port of Sur where a project study is to be made by a team from the National Industrial Development Corporation of Delhi, with Indian Government support.

Results of the survey, carried out in Dharbat, a modern fisheries research vessel bought by the Oman Government early in 1973, suggest that lobsters and edible mussels may exist in sufficient quantities to justify commercial exploitation. The report also suggests the collection of seaweeds for food and medicinal preparations as in Japan, and the production of fish meal for stock feed.

## Britain's oldest friend on peninsula

continued from page 1



By the beginning of the nineteenth century, when Britain's first treaty was signed with Oman, the sultanate had become a considerable power in its own right. Its maritime empire embraced Zanzibar, 1,000 miles of the east African coastline and parts of southern Persia and Baluchistan. The empire reached its zenith during the rule of the great Sayyid bin Sultan (1791-1856), when its dhows sailed as far as America.

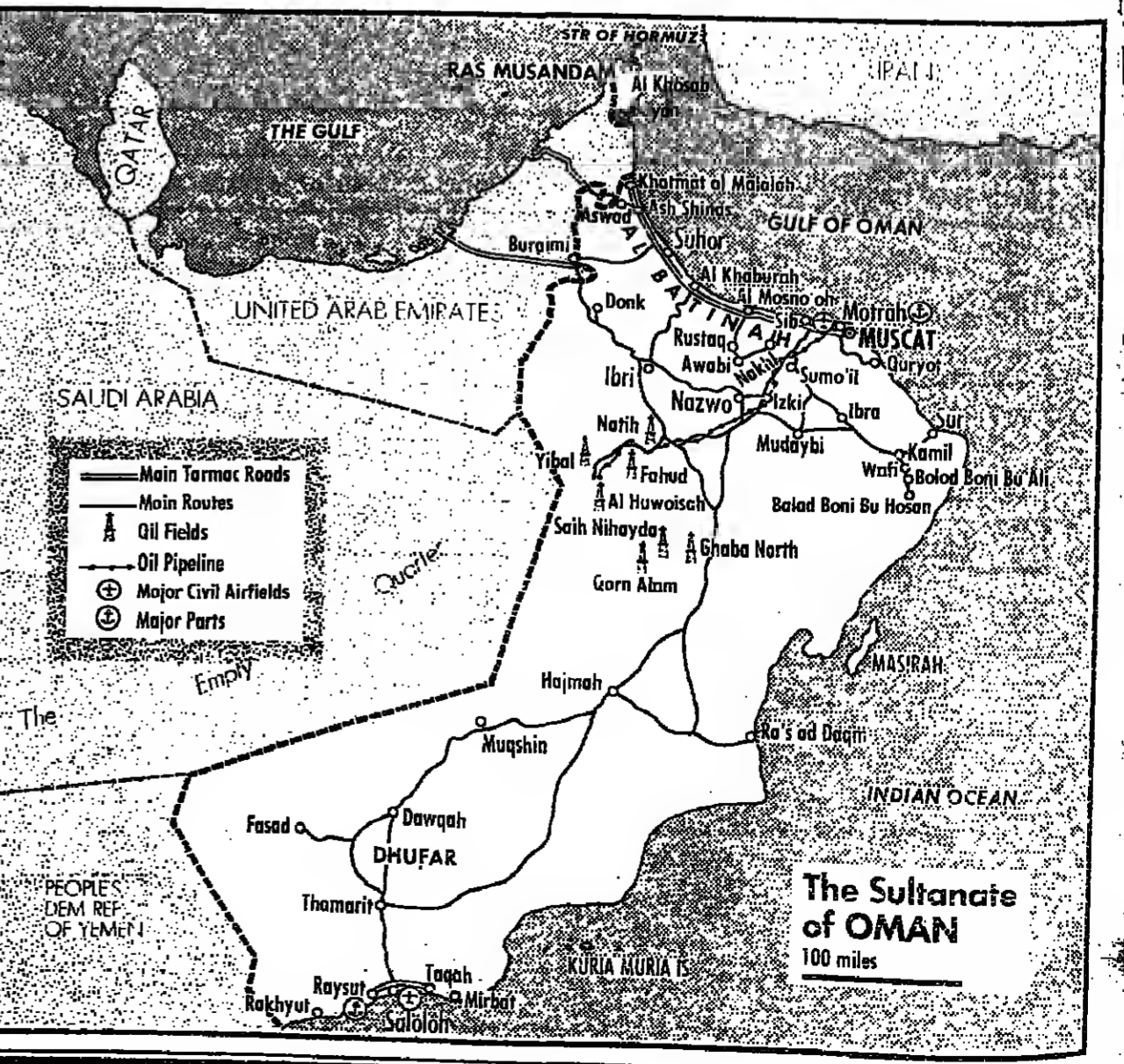
On his death the empire was divided between his eldest and his fourth sons, the east African territory going to Majid and Oman itself to Thuwaini. A dispute which arose between them over revenue was referred to the Government of India for arbitration. Lord Carnarvon, then Governor-General, ruled that Zanzibar should make an annual payment to Oman of 40,000 Maria Theresa dollars.

Almost immediately the fell into arrears, and the Indian Government too, over payment. In 1947 responsibility for this annuity—known as the Coonin Award—passed to Britain being finally discontinued in 1956.

From the time of its partition, however, the empire began to sink, the result of a sharp downturn in trade. One reason for this was the invention of the steamship which usurped much of the dhows trade on which Oman's maritime power depended. Another reason was the opening in 1869 of the Suez Canal. By the start of the First World War, moreover, Oman's profitable arms trade had been stamped out by the British, who many years earlier had brought about the end of the even more profitable slave traffic.

Oman thus went into a decline which was reversed only after the coup in 1970 when a new era in its history began.

Sultan Qaboos bin Said, who is 34 today, has close associations with Britain, as cadet at Sandhurst and officer in Germany.



لقد كنا من الأصل

نرفع إلى مقام صاحب الجلالة  
السلطان قابوس بن سعيد المعظم  
سلطان عمان اخلص التهنائي  
بمناسبة مرور أربع سنوات  
على حكمه الزاهر السعيد

قامت شركة كوستين ببناء المدينة الرياضية في الوطيه وهي مركز إقامة احتفالات العيد الوطني لعمان ،  
وبناء مدرسة البنين في غلا ، وبناء مقر إقامة الضباط المزمجين في ٣ مناطق من عمان .

Builders of the Police Sports Stadium at Watayah, centre of the Oman National Day celebrations; the Boys School at Al Ghallah; and Omani Officers' Married Quarters at six centres in Oman. Consultant architects for the Watayah Stadium: Brasher Lancaster Associates.

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